

Cheshire Local Area Agreement: Headline Issues

1. Outcomes: The Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) 2007 has been published along with the national suite of Public Service Agreements (PSA) describing the government's priorities for improvement.
2. Indicators: The National Indicator Set (NIS) to measure local authority / partnership performance has also been published, but the full technical details of these indicators will not be finalised until spring 2008.
3. Targets: Except for 17 mandatory outcomes / targets in relation to children and young people (e.g. educational attainment), no local targets have been set for the delivery of the CSR through Local Area Agreements (LAA).
4. Baselines: Baselines for many of the outcomes set by the CSR 2007 will not be available until spring / summer 2008.
5. Rewards: The Second Generation Local Public Service Agreement (LPSA2) for Cheshire was 'folded' into the first Cheshire LAA. However, this agreement comes to an end on 31 March 2008, so a new 'reward element' will need to be negotiated as part of the 'refreshed' LAA. Guidance on the LPSA-style 'reward elements' (viz. pump-priming and incentives) of the new LAAs is not expected until late November 2007.
6. Funding: Guidance is still awaited on how the 'refreshed' LAA will be paid for. While previous announcements have stressed the importance of mainstream funding sources in delivering LAAs, it is not clear that local authorities and their partners will have such room for manoeuvre given the simultaneous calls from the government for significant cashable efficiency savings and investment in service modernisation / transformation (e.g. children's services). Many partners are currently in the process of budget setting for 2008/09 and beyond and, consequently, future funding decisions will inevitably be made without reference to 'new style' LAA outcomes.
7. Local Government Re-organisation: The government has acknowledged that local government re-organisation (LGR) will "add an extra dimension to the complexity of negotiating LAAs in two-tier areas" and has suggested that this can be addressed by confining the negotiations to a one-year 'transitional' LAA covering 2008/09. Amongst other things, this will present particular challenges in relation to finance. In addition to mainstream resources as highlighted above, 'new style' LAAs are to be delivered through a 'single pot' LAA grant fund. The final list of funding streams to be drawn into the 'single pot' is still to be confirmed though likely funds are listed in Appendix A. Partners will need to consider whether the 'single pot' approach to LAA funding and the possibility of a third round Local Public Service Agreement with additional reward elements are workable within a 'transitional' LAA.
8. Capacity: In the absence of definitive guidance on the new 'rules of engagement' for developing and delivering LAAs, it is not yet possible to

assess the full resource implications of 'refreshing' the Cheshire LAA. However, it is obvious that the requirement to negotiate a new 'reward' element will entail much more than a simple re-write.

9. Scrutiny: The Local Government & Public Involvement in Health Bill includes provisions, to be implemented from April 2008, for the scrutiny of LAAs. The Government is expected to issue Regulations on the scope of scrutiny involvement in LAAs beforehand. The introduction of new arrangements will require careful planning and negotiation to provide clarity over what needs to happen where and minimise duplication of scrutiny activity across all partner organisations.

CSR07: Grants to be delivered via Revenue Support Grant

Access and Systems Capacity
 Delayed Discharges
 Children's Services
 Waste Performance and Efficiency

CSR07: Grants to be delivered via Area Based Grant

A comprehensive list will be published at the time of the provisional local government finance settlement. However, Area Based Grant will include, as a minimum, the following grants. In addition, CLG aim to include Supporting People programme grant from 2009/10, dependent on pilots in 2008/09 not raising serious concerns, and DCSF aim to include Contact Point (formerly Sharing IS Index) from 2010/11.

14-19 Flexible Funding Pot	DCSF
Adult Social Care Workforce (formerly HRDS and NTS)	DH
Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund	Defra
Care Matters White Paper	DCSF
Carers	DH
Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services	DH
Children's Social Care Workforce (formerly HRDS and NTS)	DCSF
Children's Fund	DCSF
Choice Advisers	DCSF
Cohesion	CLG
Connexions	DCSF
Crime Reduction, Drugs Strategy and Anti Social Behaviour	HO
Detrunking	DfT
Education Health Partnerships	DCSF
Extended Rights to Free Transport	DCSF
Extended Schools Start Up Costs	DCSF
Local Enterprise Growth Initiative	CLG
Local Involvement Networks	DH
Mental Capacity Act and Independent Mental Capacity Advocate Service	DH
Mental Health	DH
Positive Activities for Young People	DCSF
Preserved Rights	DH
Secondary National Strategy – Behaviour and Attendance	DCSF
Secondary National Strategy – Central Coordination	DCSF
Preventing Extremism	CLG
Primary National Strategy – Central Coordination	DCSF
Respect	HO
Road Safety Grant	DfT
Rural Bus Subsidy	DfT
School Development Grant (Local Authority element)	DCSF
School Improvement Partners	DCSF
School Intervention Grant	DCSF

School Travel Advisers	DCSF
Sea Fisheries Committee	Defra
Stronger Safer Communities Fund	CLG
Supporting People Administration	CLG
Sustainable Travel General Duty	DCSF
Teenage Pregnancy	DCSF
Working Neighbourhoods Fund (replaces Neighbourhood Renewal Fund)	CLG

These grants are revenue only. Details of capital grants will be announced alongside the provisional local government settlement.