

LAA Performance Management Group
Monday 19 April 2010, 14:00 – 16:30

Attendees:

Peter Lowton - Essex Police (Chair)
Sue Harrison – Essex Police
Loretta Sollars – Community Wellbeing and Older People (CWOP) Lead
Gwyn Owen - Sustainable Essex Lead
Dominique Phelan - Essex Economic Board representative
Roger Bullen - Children's Trust representative
Helen Dear – NI 55/56 Target Lead
Terry Reynolds – Educational attainment/achievement representative
Miriam Stead - 2012 Olympics/Paralympic Games (2012) Lead
Jason Fergus – 2012 Olympics/Paralympic Games (2012) representative
Sharon Spicer – Safer Essex representative
Hilary Cooper – GO East representative
Sarah Arnold – GO East representative
Marina Sherriff – Harlow LSP Lead
Gill Butterworth - Essex Partnership Secretariat
Louise Crew - Essex Partnership Secretariat (Minutes)

Apologies:

Charlotte Ball - Community Wellbeing and Older People (CWOP) representative
Alan Dawkes – Safer Essex Lead (Sharon Spicer attending)
Fiona Bodle – Essex Economic Board Lead (Dominique Phelan attending)
Wendi Ogle-Welbourn – Children's Trust Lead (Roger Bullen attending)
John Houston – Epping Forest LSP Lead
Dan Gascoyne – Essex Partnership Secretariat

1. Welcome, introductions and apologies

Peter Lowton welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced his colleague, Sue Harrison, who due to changes in portfolio responsibility at Essex Police, will be taking over as Chair.

Apologies were noted.

2. Minutes of 22 March meeting and matters arising

The minutes of the March meeting were approved as a correct record. Matters arising from the last meeting not already covered on the agenda were outlined as below.

Charlotte will report on the lessons learned regarding LI 3.1 at the next CWOP update in June.

Loretta commented that she has met with Laurie Rainger from GO East regarding NI 120, and Laurie had provided contact details for areas with similar targets in their LAAs. However, the local variation of NI 120 used in Essex may make it difficult to find any relevant proxy measures.

3. Children's Trust Update

a) Educational attainment targets

Terry summarised his reports on early years (NI 72 and NI 92), KS2 (NI 73, NI 93, NI 94) and GCSE (NI 75, NI 78) attainment and achievement. There is concern that targets are not being met; that although Essex is in line with statistical neighbours, we are often in the bottom quartile; and that we are not increasing as quickly as others. The 2009/10 academic year results will be derived from exams being taken now.

40% of Essex schools are in the bottom 25%; the strategy of focussing on the under performing schools tends to lead to others not in this group slipping down the ranking in subsequent years. Plans are scrutinised by DCSF and considered to be well regarded, but some schools are not performing as well as their predictions. Children with Special Educational Needs and those with free school meals are a particular concern.

Terry also updated on educational attainment for children looked after (NI 99, NI 100 and NI 101). Children in stable foster care tend to do as well as other children, but a key area for improvement relates to children in residential care homes, those run by Essex County Council and those placed outside Essex.

Peter asked what had contributed to an improvement in looked after attainment in KS2 English (NI 99) in the 08/09 academic year - although the target was not met. Terry advised that targets are set on individual pupil projections made by the school in the December before the academic year in which exams are taken, i.e., four terms in advance, progress is monitored each term and if not on track then targeted support is put in place to help bring back on track. Extra support is being provided to schools for children look after tuition, and the effectiveness of this will be known when KS2 results for the 09/10 academic year are available (September/October).

Peter invited Terry back to PMG in October to update on whether the initiatives put in place to improve educational attainment generally have had an impact. Hilary proposed that any of the educational attainment targets believed to be at risk, and the mitigating actions, should be flagged to Essex Management Board.

Gill asked for a review of the forecasts for all educational attainment targets.

Actions:

- ***Wendi/Roger to make the Children's Trust Board aware of the issues on 28 May, and the actions in place to address***
- ***Wendi/Roger/Terry to update on educational achievement as part of a Children's Trust report in October; a follow on report will be made to Essex Management Board on 2 November***
- ***Roger to review forecasts and advise Gill of any changes needed to the Scorecard***

b) Obesity and links to sustainable school travel

Helen distributed a diagram which illustrated the factors contributing to obesity. There are currently a number of different people and teams going into schools on related initiatives, e.g., School Travel Plans and Healthy Schools, and there is an opportunity to join up this activity to tackle childhood obesity.

The Public Health Team is proposing an alignment of priorities, and plans to develop a data dashboard of relevant indicators. The Essex Obesity Forum has been approached to support an Essex-wide strategy, and includes PCT representation and proposed links to the

Community Wellbeing and Older People's Board and the Be Healthy Implementation Group of the Children's Trust Board.

It was agreed that Helen will arrange to provide a report to the Group at the next meeting, with a timetable for the alignment of priorities and development of indicators, and an indication of what help the other five thematic partnerships and district LSPs could provide.

Actions:

- ***Roger/Helen to report back on the timescales for aligning priorities and plans, and what other partnerships can do to help***

c) Overview

Roger commented that there are known risks with NI 59/NI 60 (children's care assessments) which are highlighted in the attached report.



Children's Trust
Update

Peter suggested the group read and digest the report, and that if they have any questions these can be discussed directly with Roger, or during AOB of the next meeting.

Actions:

- ***All to consider the Children's Trust report and raise any issues directly with Roger or at the next meeting***

4. London 2012 Olympic/Paralympic Games

Miriam and Jason gave a verbal update on this occasion as the focus has been on agreeing the Annual Report with the 2012 Board, which meets on 20 April.

NI 8 (adult participation in sport) – Jason updated on work is being done to improve targeting of activity, location and audiences; improve communication and social marketing; strengthen links with LSPs to share good practice and initiatives, and avoid duplication; and capture supplementary data, including data collected by districts, as the Active People Survey does not show the full effect of work being done towards this target.

NI 11 (engagement in the arts) – Miriam distributed some of the marketing material being used to promote cultural activity, including the Explore Culture booklet, which includes a feedback section. She mentioned that the economic impact of last summer's art exhibitions has been assessed through an East of England Tourism evaluative model (PRIME), and this approach could be used for other events.

Miriam advised that engagement in the arts is a key factor in volunteering, with an estimated 180,000 volunteer hours provided for cultural activity. The Essex Volunteer Programme for the 2012 Games is due to be launched in the autumn, and will contribute to the NI 6 (volunteering) target.

5. Exception reports & updates on recovery plans

NI 4 (influencing decisions) – Gwyn had liaised with Duncan regarding what puts people off compared to better performing areas. Duncan believes that there are no specific trends on what the drivers are, with the data hard to compare. It was suggested looking at the key levers for success in Norfolk, and also why some parts of Essex seem to perform better than others.

Sarah commented that NI 4 has been highlighted as a priority area for GO East, with Tracy James as the GO Lead. Sarah and Gwyn will follow up. Peter acknowledged that changing perceptions is hard to do, but asked Gwyn to explore the situation further with Duncan and report back.

Peter suggested stepping back from the detail, e.g., considering a 'you can influence Essex' logo for all partners literature.

NI 156 (temporary accommodation) – Gwyn confirmed that Donia is now a member of the Temporary Accommodation Working Group. The working group has introduced health checks for people in temporary accommodation in Colchester. Gwyn/Donia will report back on progress made during the alcohol issues item scheduled for September.

NI 115 (substance misuse by young people) – this target had been flagged as a possible concern at the last meeting. Sharon explained that the Tell Us Survey, which is optional for schools to complete, was managed differently this year with a number of changes made to weighting, timing and questions. The 2008/09 baseline used for the LAA target has been revised from 10.9% to 9.7%. The LAA target, however, remains as 8.5%. Whilst the 2009/10 data is better than target, it suggests a 0.6% points increase in the proportion of young people saying that they frequently use drugs, alcohol or volatile substances in comparison with the re-weighted baseline. Alan would alert the group to any concerns as part of future updates, and the issue will continue to be monitored by Safer Essex.

Actions:

- ***Gwyn to consider with Sarah what further support might be helpful in respect of NI 4***
- ***Gwyn to update on the position with NI 4 in the Sustainable Essex item in May***
- ***Gwyn/Donia to report back on progress on temporary accommodation/DAAT links as part of the alcohol strategy item planned for September***
- ***Alan to update on NI 115 as necessary***

6. Review of how the group is operating

Peter stated that as we have come to the end of the financial year it is timely to look at how we are operating as a group, at what has worked and what we can improve. He reminded the Group that we had spent the early months developing consistency in plans and reports, so that everyone could assimilate each other's documents relatively quickly. We had then improved the review and understanding of plans, with in depth review of two work programmes each month with other reports by exception, and had worked hard to simplify the complexity and add value.

Loretta thought that the Group provided a useful forum for identifying cross cutting themes and enabling Thematic Partnerships to work together on shared outcomes. She said that it was useful to have the 'weight' of the Group when taking back issues and requests to her Thematic Partnership. She commented that as we are coming to the last year of the LAA, it would be useful to think about what happens beyond March 2011.

In terms of future requirements, Gwyn wondered whether there will be a focus on fewer targets with appeal to partners directly, rather than through governance bodies such as Essex Management Board. Hilary advised that statutory targets will continue in some form. The CAA areas for improvement, i.e., red flags and markers, would need to be taken forward, with

governance needed to oversee delivery of these and other strategic priorities. Hilary agreed that the Group has come a long way in the last year or so, and that the focus for the coming year remains the LAA.

Attendance of target leads for specific in-depth reporting and discussion is considered to be useful because of their specialised knowledge of the subject. It also helps reinforce their role as target lead, and provides an awareness of the wider strategic context.

Marina asked whether the Group felt that LSP representation was working – does it make a difference or contribute? It was agreed we need to work harder to bring LSPs and Thematic closer together. Loretta suggested inviting Lead Officers from all LSPs to meetings in rotation, to provide a focus on different areas each month and to enable all LSP leads to be involved in the in depth review of thematic work programmes.

Marina asked whether a Scorecard could be produced to cover districts. Gill advised that the mid year and end of year updates provide a better way of presenting district data, and that it may not be appropriate or possible to get the forecast assessment against the end of LAA target for districts. The 2009/10 results update should be available mid/end May.

Sarah confirmed that GO East have found these meetings useful and informative, but that it would be helpful to have all papers in advance. She thought that performance management was good, but that Group members could be more challenging of one another.

Sharon questioned whether it was possible to revisit the order of thematic reports in the forward plan, to ensure they continued to align with partnership meetings.

Actions:

- ***Gill/Marina to consider LSP Lead Officer representation for future meetings***
- ***All to ensure that Gill has supporting papers a week before the meeting to allow for circulation with the agenda***
- ***Thematic Leads to review forward plan and propose any changes needed to align with thematic meetings***

7. AOB/next meeting

Gill commented that the Essex Partnership has successfully applied for a Local Improvement Advisor (LIA), with the support of Improvement East, to help review partnership governance arrangements. The key outcomes for the project are to recommend options for new partnership governance structures and operating arrangements. The LIA should be in place by the end of April and an interim report is expected to be available for consideration by Essex Management Board in June.

With regard to the Audit Commission Health Inequalities Review, Loretta advised that workshops are taking place this month with a report from Audit Commission due in May. This could be an agenda item for June/July. She also mentioned the survey on the impact of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment. A draft report was presented to the JSNA Steering Group on 13 April and the final document will be agreed at the CWOP meeting on 11 May.

The next meeting will be held on 17 May 2010 from 2:00 to 4:30 at Maynetrees, Chelmsford.

Close

LAA Performance Management Group Forward Plan

Date of meeting	Item	Responsibility
17 May 2010	Safer Essex to include <i>Update on NI 115 (if needed)</i>	Alan
	Sustainable Essex to include <i>Further review of NI 4 issues</i>	Gwyn
	Exception reports/update on recovery plans to include <i>Obesity/school travel strategy timescales & help needed</i>	All
	Draft Annual Reports (including 2009/10 results)?	All
14 June 2010	Economic Board	Fiona/Dominique
	Community Wellbeing and Older People	Loretta/Charlotte
	Exception reports/update on recovery plans	All
16 July 2010	Children's Trust <i>(reps unable to attend – move to June?)</i>	Wendi/Roger
	London 2012 Olympic/Paralympic Games	Miriam/Jason
	Exception reports/update on recovery plans	All
13 September 2010	Safer Essex to include <i>Alcohol Strategy update (and links with temporary accommodation)</i>	Alan
	Sustainable Essex	Gwyn
	Exception reports/update on recovery plans	All
11 October 2010	Children's Trust to include <i>Educational attainment update (for onward report to EMB 2/11)</i>	Wendi/Roger
	Economic Board	Fiona/Dominique
	Community Wellbeing and Older People	Loretta/Charlotte
	Exception reports/update on recovery plans	All
15 November 2010	Tbc	Tbc
	London 2012 Olympic/Paralympic Games	Miriam/Jason
	Exception reports/update on recovery plans	All
13 December 2010	Safer Essex	Alan
	Sustainable Essex	Gwyn
	Exception reports/update on recovery plans	All

Essex Management Board:

17 June 2010
(PMG update on risks? Annual Reports)

2 November 2010
(PMG update on risks, including update on educational attainment from Children's Trust?)

Essex Partnership Forum:

14 September 2010