

Title of Action Plan being assessed	Influencing decisions
LAA indicator	NI 4
Name of person completing this assessment	Duncan Wood
Contact Telephone Number	
Date	08/07/2009
Which Partners are involved?	ECC, RCCE, all District and Borough LSPs

1. What are the aims and objectives of this Action Plan – are there any in addition to achieving the LAA indicator target?

The objective of this action plan is to achieve the NI 4 target in the LAA – increase the number of people who feel they can influence decisions in their locality from 30% in 2007/8 to 40% by 2010/11.

2. What are the steps used to deliver the Action Plan?

- Create online public engagement database to share results of public engagement work
- promote and securing adoption of an LSP Standard Model of Good Practice on Public Engagement
- Agree protocols for ensuring that VCOs are consulted by councils when developing policy
- Develop resource pack for community groups wishing to influence public decisions
- Renew and publicise the Essex Framework agreement
- Identify how VCOs can deliver or co-deliver public services
- **CHECK THESE AGAINST MOST RECENT NI 4 ACTION PLAN**

3a. Think carefully about each of the equality groups below in turn. Could the Action Plan have a negative or positive effect on people in the group? Tick any group that could be positively affected, and put a cross against any group that could be negatively affected. Some groups can have both a tick and a cross.

X /	Race and Culture	X /	Disability
X /	Age	X /	Gender
X /	Sexual Orientation	X /	Religion and Belief
X /	Rural Isolation	X /	Economic Deprivation

3b. Describe any positive or negative issues that you think are relevant under each equality strand. If you identify an issue that substantially affects a particular group, and might stop them benefiting, state what changes you will make to your Action Plan.

Race & Culture

Issues:

- Small sub-samples of BME groups in surveys
- Language problems prohibiting the participation of some individuals
- Question whether there are enough BME members on citizens panel
- Question whether there is enough work being undertaken with BME groups

Changes to Action Plan:

- NI 4 working group to consider whether it is necessary to develop resource packs to meet needs to BME groups
- Ensure that in achieving the NI 4 objective, that partners existing links with Traveller Groups are made full use of, i.e. ensuring that this learning is disseminated to a wider range of services
- Steps will be taken to boost BME sample on tracker survey

- Ensure that surveys are undertaken in plain English
- Assess whether there are enough BME representatives on citizen panel – if not then advise this is increased

Age

Issues:

- Ensure we do not just focus on the views of adults and exclude those of young people
- Engaging with younger, working class males

Changes to Action Plan:

- Monitor results of surveys to determine level of participation from these groups, if there are issues then undertake future engagement using methods that might be more accessible to these groups

Disability

Issues:

- Ensuring that all forms of engagement are accessible (i.e. scrolling through an online questionnaire)

Changes to Action Plan:

- Ensure partnership network forum is linked into all engagement to make certain these points are monitored on an ongoing basis

Religion and Belief

Issues:

- Similarly to race and culture, ensuring that sub-samples are of a sufficient size to be representative

Changes to Action Plan:

- Monitor levels of participation in tracker survey and membership of citizen panel

Gender

Issues:

- Engaging with young, working class males. This is also linked with age and deprivation.

Changes to Action Plan:

- Undertake innovative approaches to engagement on a range of issues to help facilitate their participation

Sexual Orientation

Issues:

- Sexual orientation is not a question that is asked in surveys and this needs to be developed

Changes to Action Plan:

- Undertake pilot with Maldon LSP. Revise approach again once these results become available
- Continue to develop links with voluntary sector infrastructure to help improve engagement and understanding

Rural Isolation

Issues:

- Access to the internet can be an issue in some rural areas. This needs to be considered when undertaking engagement
- Ability to attend focus groups can be more difficult for some individuals living in rural areas

Changes to Action Plan:

- Discuss with colleagues in Community Transport how to address this issues on a case by case basis

Economic Deprivation

Issues:

- Individuals who are less well off tend to feel less empowered

Changes to Action Plan:

- Improve quality of information available
- Ensure all communications are written in plain English, are easily cascaded and are welcoming
- Disseminate engagement information through schools

4. What equality statistics or other evidence from public engagement do you need to help you test your initial conclusions in Section 1?

What statistics or reports already exist – nationally or locally?

What else do you need to know – what are the gaps?

How will you collect this evidence? If you feel that particular organisations or community/voluntary groups will be able to help you please list these too.

STATISTICS

What evidence do you want?	Where is it available?	How will you use the evidence?
New demographic information	It is currently available as raw data in the Place Survey and needs to be processed	To fine tune the LAA action plan and to gain a better understanding of BME groups in Essex

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT PLAN

What do you want to know?	What questions will you ask?	Who are you going to ask?	Name of planned source (if known)	What will you do with the answer?
A greater understanding of issues and concerns of specific members of the community. More detailed discussions required through Engage Essex	Questions to address the issues outlined above to provide a greater understanding of issues and the concerns of specific members of the community	Target groups outlined in EIA with twin track quantitative and qualitative research.	Engage Essex	Improve survey questions and focus groups

5. The Essex Partnership needs a copy of this Section of your EIA in order to co-ordinate any public engagement activities. You will be given feed back by the Essex partnership on the best way to manage the public engagement activity you have identified on the form. Please send this to the e-mail address below.

Please submit this form to the Essex Partnership team: info@essexpartnership.org