

# The Essex Local Area Agreement 2008-2011

A brief guide



**essex** shaping  
partnership the future  
of essex

# Why is it important?

The **Local Area Agreement** is an agreement between **public, private, voluntary** and **community sector partners** across Essex to achieve **ten priorities** that are regarded as key to **Essex having the best quality of life in Britain.**

The Agreement is important because it expresses the shared aims of all public, private and third sector bodies delivering services to the people of Essex and it includes the only targets that we, with our partners, agree with Government to achieve over the next three years. The LAA will become a central component of the Comprehensive Area Assessment framework from 2009.

There is clearly a limit to what any individual District Council, the Police, a PCT or the County Council can do, acting in isolation. Acting together, these organisations can be much more effective. The Local Area Agreement is the basis for this joint working. The LAA is also about achieving better value for money. Public sector bodies spend over £6billion in Essex every year. We believe that if the bodies spending that money operated in a more joined-up way and were more responsive to the needs and priorities of our citizens then that money could be spent much more effectively. The Local Area Agreement is aimed at achieving greater efficiency and greater democratic control over the money that is spent in Essex.

## What are the shared priorities of the LAA partners?

The ten priorities we are committed to achieving through the LAA are:

1. Fewer children and young people missing education or not in education, employment or training.
2. More people supported to live in their own homes and better support for carers.
3. Better public health and longer lives.
4. Children and young people realise their potential in education.
5. Essex roads are safer, less congested and everyone has access to essential services.
6. More participation in sport, culture and volunteering.
7. Essex is a safe place to live.
8. Essex has a strong and competitive economy.
9. A smaller carbon footprint with less waste.
10. A well managed natural environment.

Six Thematic Partnerships have responsibility for achieving these priorities, working closely with the 12 district Local Strategic Partnerships. For each priority there are a series of performance indicators against which targets have been set in most cases for every district.

## Who decided what went into the Agreement?

Each local area brings together its key partners in a forum called a Local Strategic Partnership (LSP). These include representatives from the Police Service, Fire, the Primary Care Trust, businesses and the voluntary sector, as well as other organisations. At the Essex-wide level, the County LSP brings together key partners in the Essex Partnership Forum. This typically considers issues common to all, or a large number, of district LSPs, as well as more specific issues if these are significant to the county as a whole.

Every LSP, including the Essex Partnership, publishes a Sustainable Community Strategy which is essentially a statement of the key issues facing an area and what needs to be done in order to address these issues to make the area a better place. The Essex Sustainable Community Strategy is called simply 'The Essex Strategy'. Sustainable Community Strategies should reflect the views of the community and these were the starting point for identifying the priorities set out in the Local Area Agreement 2008-2011 (LAA2). LAA2 is best understood as the delivery document or action plan for a three year period of the Essex Strategy.

## Who is the Agreement between?

Local Area Agreements are negotiated with Central Government. Government's main concern is to see that they reflect national priorities which rely on local delivery. Our concern is to make sure that the LAA reflects local priorities. On most occasions these two perspectives coincide, but if they don't, we believe that LAAs should emphasise local rather than national concerns.

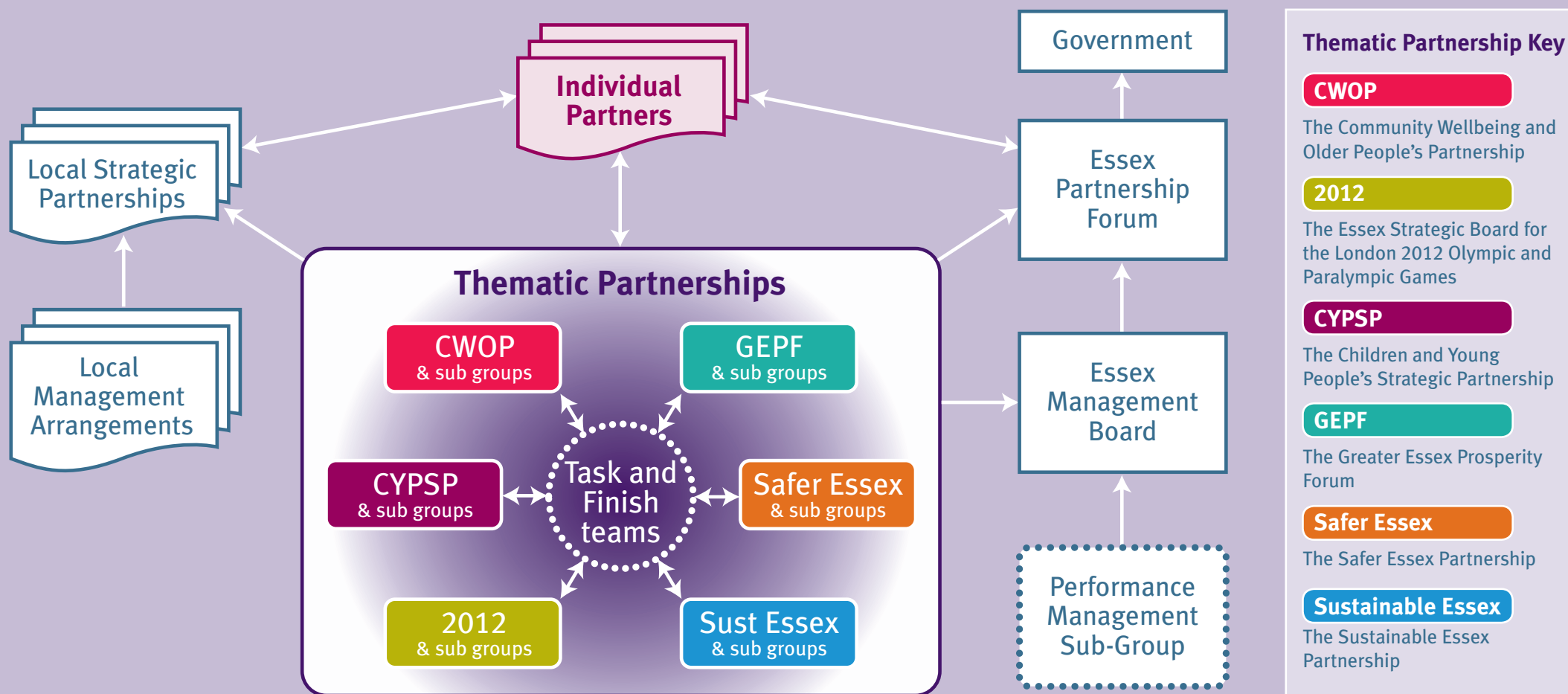
Due to Local Strategic Partnerships not having any formal legal status, it is the County Council that is the body responsible in law for the LAA. However, all of the district and borough councils in the County, all of the LSPs, all of the PCTs, the Learning and Skills Council, the Police, Fire Service and others, as well as private and third sector bodies, have signed-up to support its delivery. This is genuinely a significant partnership endeavour.

## Delivery and Monitoring

The actions of partners that deliver services to the people of Essex are already contributing to the achievement of many of the targets in the Agreement. The newly agreed targets in LAA2 challenge all partners to review how they work together and consider what new actions they can take to make additional improvements to the quality of life of the people of Essex. Current actions and new proposals are set out in LAA action plans. Each action plan is 'owned' by a key individual known as the Target Lead - responsible for ensuring progress is made towards achieving their LAA targets.

The Essex Partnership Forum (EPF) and Essex Management Board (EMB) monitor delivery of the LAA and can challenge performance of individual partners if this is necessary. To assist with this they have established a Performance Management Sub-group that examines delivery of action plans and progress towards targets. Thematic Partnerships monitor delivery of action plans for which they are responsible. Thematic Partnerships are much closer to the detail of the targets and can work with target leads to try to ensure that they are supported to deliver action plans. Local Strategic Partnerships are responsible for monitoring delivery of the LAA at a district and sub-district level. To support this process, most targets are set at district level so LSPs, District Councils and other agencies operating locally can see how the county-wide targets relate to them. GO-East monitors progress and reviews the LAA every year.

# Essex Partnership Structure



## Thematic Partnerships, LAA2 Indicators and Target Leads

Thematic Partnership	LAA2 Indicators	Description	Target Lead
Essex Partnership Forum	NI 4	Influencing decisions	Duncan Wood
	NI 5	Overall satisfaction	Dan Gascoyne
	NI 7	Thriving Third sector	Sue Sumner
Children & Young People's Strategic Partnership Board	NI 79, 117, 72-75, 78, 83, 92-101	Educational attainment	Terry Reynolds
	NI 87, 87a	School attendance	
	NI 51	CAMHs	Gary Pocock
	NI 56	Year 6 Obesity	Chris French
	NI 112	Under 18 Conception	Michael O'Brien
	LI (NI 59) LI (NI 60)	Children's care assessments	Andrew Haley
	LI (NI 57)	Children's sport	Kelvin Williams
	NI 111	Youth justice system entrants	Tanya Gillett
Community Wellbeing and Older People's Board	NI 134,	Emergency bed days	Cathy Mitchell
	NI 135,	Support for carers	
	LI 2.1	Independent living for over 65s	
	NI 141	Vulnerable people achieving independent living	Simon Harniess
	NI 120	Mortality rate	Mike Gogarty
	LI 3.1	Mental health	Pauline Stratford
	NI 123	Smoking	Andrea Atherton
Safer Essex Partnership	NI 47	Killed and seriously injured	Rosemary Welch
	LI 7.2	Feeling safe	Sam Grant
	NI 17,	Anti-social behaviour	Carmel Napier
	NI 20	Assaults with injury	
	LI 7.1	Domestic violence	
	NI 18	Adult re-offending	Alex Bamber
Greater Essex Prosperity Forum	NI 39,	Alcohol admissions	Ben Hughes
	NI 115	Substance misuse by young people	
	NI 163, 164, LI (NI 165)	Skills	Matthew Fletcher
	NI 166	Earnings	Peter Cook & David Adlington
London Olympic and Paralympic Games Strategic Board	LI 8.1	Foreign investment	
	LI 8.2	International trade	
	LI (NI 151)	Employment rate	Louise Aitken (interim)
	NI 171	VAT registration	Keith Hughes
	NI 8	Adult sport	Emma Russell
Sustainable Essex	NI 11	Engagement in arts	Miriam Stead
	NI 156	Temporary accommodation	Malcolm Knights
	LI 2.2, NI 154	Housing	Ian Vipond
	LI 5.2	Congestion	Liz Saville
	LI (NI 198)	Children travelling to school	Richard Gravatt
	NI 6	Volunteering	Simon Banks (interim)
	LI 5.1	Access to Services	Nick Shuttleworth
	NI 195,	Environmental cleanliness	Jason Searles
	NI 191, 192	Waste and recycling	
	NI 186,	Carbon reduction	Kevin Jones
	NI 188	Climate change adaptation	
NI 197; LI 10.1	Biodiversity and Living Landscapes	John Hall	

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