

## **Item: 7**

**REPORT TO:** Halton Strategic Partnership Board  
**DATE:** 28 September 2005-09-13  
**SUBJECT:** LSP Annual Performance Review

### **1.0 PURPOSE**

Over the summer the annual performance review of the Partnership has taken place by Government Office. This takes the form of a self-assessment by the Partnership and a formal review process by Government officials. Government Office has now released its assessment. The purpose of this report is to share this with partners and consider its ramifications.

### **2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

That the Halton Strategic Partnership Board note the report and that the comments from Government be fed into the Partnership Improvement Plan and are reported to the SSPs.

### **3.0 BACKGROUND**

The Government view that the primary purpose of the performance management review process is to provide LSPs with evidence of how they are delivering better outcomes for local people and help identify what might be done to improve performance. In particular it is about:

- Achieving delivery of national floor targets and local targets in the Community Strategy and Local Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy;
- Measuring progress in narrowing the gap between the most deprived neighbourhoods/communities and the rest of the borough;
- Identifying how NRF is being used to support this delivery and progress and also identifying its impact on mainstreaming;
- Ensuring the LSP is adding value and delivering real improvements for the community;
- Ensuring that community participation, diversity and race equality are integral to the delivery outcomes.

For this year's review, LSPs were asked to assess their progress against targets and in improving conditions in deprived neighbourhoods, as well as effectiveness as a working partnership. This should lead to an Improvement Plan of the key actions necessary to improve performance over the coming months. The performance management process is a way of helping the Government Office regionally, and the NRU nationally, to identify where support might be best focused. The Improvement Plan is therefore felt to be of critical importance.

### **4.0 OUTCOME**

Using the NRU's traffic light system the self-assessment of overall performance in 2004-05 was rated as Green. Attached, as an Annex to this report is the Annual Review report from the Government Office. This report shows that Halton has been given an overall Amber Green assessment. This indicates that a clear evidence trail existed showing that activities and interventions across most of the LSP have been successful in delivery and there are clear actions to address the rest. The additional evidence provided after the annual review was very helpful.

The partnership already has an Improvement Plan (the Workplan) to manage forward the work of the Partnership. This Improvement Plan may need to be amended in light of the specific observations made in the report about the need to be able to demonstrate the impact being made towards narrowing the gap for the most deprived neighbourhoods and disadvantaged groups. The Partnership is already addressing this.

The report is a technical assessment of the work of the Partnership. Their purpose is to give an impartial judgement on LSP actability to help sharpen up performance. These reports are considered and validated by Government officials across the region and nationally by the NRU. However, individual results for partnerships are not publicised. The key issue for the Partnership is to consider the views and advice being offered with a positive intent. It is suggested that the report is shared with SSPs so that they can consider the assessment thematically, and that it is used as part of the review of the Improvement Plan.

## Annual review template

## Annex A

### HALTON STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

#### Performance Management Report, Annual Review 2005

Self Assessment LSP Overall

GO Assessment LSP Overall –

Health	
Self Assessed Traffic Light – Amber Green	GO Assessed Traffic Light – Amber Green
Strengths (to include progress towards targets)	Issues to be addressed
<p>HSPB has a strong focus on health - borough health study recently completed with strong community input. Strong lead jointly by HBC and PCT with Director of Public Health seconded from PCT to HBC part time. Life expectancy gap is narrowing for women but for men since 2000 has widened. It is not yet clear that floor targets will be met. Poor health is widespread with 57% of the population living in the 10% worst SoAs for health. Recent 5 year figures do show above average improvements in circulatory disease and cancer (including lung cancer) and well ahead of target which should impact in future. Good use of HIA and equity audit tool. Good use of key deliverables for maximum impact eg school nurse service, social marketing and health trainers. Examples of targeting groups include Vulnerable Adults Task Force with anecdotal evidence of impact (monitoring forms available), mental health and teenage parents. In neighbourhoods the five a day initiative targets the most disadvantaged neighbourhoods. TP rates are volatile with slight increase in latest figures – 3 year trend downward below NRF average but well above England. Recommendations for improvement from the DfES's TPU are being implemented.</p>	<p>Cirrhosis of the liver is a growing concern but not in the same league as the major killers where progress has been good. HSPB has been looking strategically at alcohol as a cross cutting issue over the past year. Indeed wider determinants of health remain a factor. In the narrower health field, the self assessment talks of starting to look at different age groups or areas but the equity audit has already informed targeting, evidence of positive impact is less prominent but some has been provided. There are difficulties in comparing data due to changes in ward boundaries, population denominations and classifications of deaths but even setting those aside changes below borough level are said to be so small as to make it difficult to draw conclusions. So far it is difficult to determine much change in the position of deprived neighbourhoods vis a vis the rest. Teenage pregnancy continues to be an issue but is actively being addressed.</p> <p>Overall this is a mixed picture, but on balance the high profile and strong strategic lead underpinned by extensive research and good use of key interventions balances the slow progress on targets and the paucity of tangible evidence to date of impact on priority neighbourhoods.</p>
Education	
Self Assessed Traffic Light – Amber Green	GO Assessed Traffic Light – Amber Red
Strengths (to include progress towards targets)	Issues to be addressed
<p>KS4 floor target achieved at LEA level but one school missed and not making progress and slight dip in 03/04 average. KS2 and 3 not achieved but progress made at school level (better on KS3). Targets set at school level but do not look achievable in all cases. BME population too small</p>	<p>A mixed picture on floor targets where concerns at LEA and school level are being addressed. Attendance levels also remain a concern. Possible need for higher profile within HSPB to address the more cross cutting issues eg low</p>

for meaningful data (relevant to all themes) but not clear whether work is done with other low achieving groups. Considerable programme of work in place to address which should start to impact on future figures.	aspiration culture, attendance.
<b>Employment</b>	
<b>Self Assessed Traffic Light – Amber Green</b>	<b>GO Assessed Traffic Light – Amber Red</b>
<b>Strengths (to include progress towards targets)</b>	<b>Issues to be addressed</b>
Unemployment reducing but employment rate (on NOMIS data set: FTI static) has also fallen – local data shows increase. JCP actively engaged with local partners in worst wards. Halton into Jobs also targets most disadvantaged. Progress demonstrated with lone parents and over 50s, marginal progress with those with lowest qualifications. Claimant count data by ward also show positive impact in the worst areas. Rates of VAT registered businesses increasing. Proactive approach to employment opportunities and evidence of good joint working.	The employment position in the worst areas has been reviewed by HSPB and shows significant disparities. It is likely that more targeting is needed and this is starting to happen eg via JCP focus on clusters of high levels of incapacity benefit.
<b>Crime</b>	
<b>Self Assessed Traffic Light - Green</b>	<b>GO Assessed Traffic Light – Amber Green</b>
<b>Strengths (to include progress towards targets)</b>	<b>Issues to be addressed</b>
Good progress on burglary, vehicle crime and fear of crime. Ward data also shows positive impact on burglary in the worst neighbourhoods but not for vehicle crime. Targets etc clear and challenging agreed with Home Office. Crime hotspots analysed and targeted. Crime rates not comparable to rest of Merseyside and below England averages.	There is a lack of evidence of consistent positive impact at priority neighbourhood or for disadvantaged groups but this is being addressed. Total crime and violent crime are rising (as in many parts of the North West).
<b>Housing</b>	
<b>Self Assessed Traffic Light - Green</b>	<b>GO Assessed Traffic Light - Green</b>
<b>Strengths (to include progress towards targets)</b>	<b>Issues to be addressed</b>
LSVT approved by ballot and scheduled for Oct 05. RSL stock 95% decent and Castlefields being comprehensively addressed. Good use of NRF to monitor standards. Trajectory shows standard will be met for social housing. Private sector target is amber because based on ODPM ready reckoner at present but stock condition survey will provide up to date data. Trends in road traffic accidents downward and converging with England average.	Emerging pockets of low demand. Need to ensure that LSVT complements wider regeneration – this has been discussed within HSPB. Need to keep private sector stock condition survey on schedule.
<b>Qualitative aspects of LSP Performance</b>	
<b>Self Assessed Traffic Light – Amber Green</b>	<b>GO Assessed Traffic Light – Amber Green</b>
<b>Strengths (including review of partnership working and NRF spend)</b>	<b>Issues to be addressed</b>
Strong management of NRF, 100% spent and commissioning approach linked to floor targets at	Local Authority always leads and supports – maybe other partners could do more? There is no

risk. Good partner buy in to HSPB agenda and priorities. Good culture of performance management – HSPB regularly reviews floor target data and adjusts priorities. Specialist Strategic Partnerships handle the detail, identify gaps etc with reasonable degree of autonomy.	agreed protocol in place with the Community Network.
<b>Improvement Planning</b>	
<b>Self Assessed Traffic Light - Green</b>	<b>GO Assessed Traffic Light – Amber Green</b>
<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Issues to be addressed</b>
IP is largely in the form of thematic plans around outcomes. Very little “partnership” this year – last year’s actions complete. Floor targets at risk are prioritised.	The criteria for “green” suggest that there should be evidence of priority neighbourhoods and disadvantaged groups being prioritised. Systematic risk management is being addressed.

### ***LSP Summary***

HSPB is a well led, supported and motivated partnership both in terms of commitment from all partner agencies and a delivery driver team in the Local Authority. It is fully committed to the neighbourhood renewal agenda and achievement of floor targets. From the outset it has underpinned its priorities with baseline research in a State of the Borough report, which in 2001 took the analysis below borough level. In 2002 HSPB adopted a borough wide approach to neighbourhood renewal, with neighbourhood profiles produced. Targeting has taken place but has not been widely publicised largely to avoid labelling communities. In 2003 following the seminar with NRU it adopted the floor target action planning approach again largely on a borough wide basis. Life expectancy and employment remain the most challenging areas. More recently HSPB has used IMD04 to analyse below borough level and will be systematically tracking performance there from now on. The nature of disadvantaged groups in Halton is not easily defined and will vary by theme. BME population is 1.2% (Census 2001) in an overall population of 118,000 centred on the towns of Widnes and Runcorn either side of the Mersey. The traffic light criteria have changed this year and direct comparison with last year is not possible. For this year the mixed progress overall on floor targets and the limited evidence of positive impact at neighbourhood level and upon disadvantaged groups are the main factors in the difference in HSPB’s self assessment of green and GO-NW’s assessment of amber green (top end).