

Government 'Floor Targets'

Since 2000, central Government departments have had Public Service Agreements (PSAs), which set out the targets they are expected to achieve. In 2004 these targets were revised as part of the Government's Spending Review (SR04).

Some of these targets are called floor targets, which is a generic term used by the Government to describe targets that set a minimum standard for disadvantaged groups or areas.

A floor target aims to:

- ✓ Help reduce the gap between the poorest areas and the rest of the country.
- ✓ Show what the priorities should be at a local level.
- ✓ Make sure that where public services are failing, they get better.
- ✓ Sometimes set the minimum standard for poor areas and disadvantaged groups.

Many floor targets are directly related to the aims of the Government's National Strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal and must be taken into account when allocating Neighbourhood Renewal Fund.

The following is a list of the Government's key floor targets and the priority area that they fall within.

- **Crime**

Reduce crime by 15%, and further in high crime areas, by 2007/08.
(*A Safer Halton*)

- **Education**

Improve children's communication, social, and emotional development so that by 2008 50% of children reach a good level of development at the end of the Foundation Stage and reduce inequalities between the level of development achieved by children in the 20% most disadvantaged areas and the rest of England. (*Children & Young People in Halton*)

Raise standards in English and math's so that:

- by 2006, 85% of 11 year olds achieve level 4 or above, with this level of performance sustained to 2008.

- by 2008, the number of schools in which fewer than 65% of pupils achieve level 4 or above is reduced by 40%.
(*Children & Young People in Halton*)

Raise standards in English, math's, ICT and Science in secondary education so that:

- by 2007, 85% of 14 year olds achieve level 5 or above in English, math's and ICT (80% in science) nationally, with this level of performance sustained to 2008.
- by 2008, in all schools at least 50% of pupils achieve level 5 or above in each of English, math's, and science.

By 2008, 60% of those aged 16 to achieve the equivalent of 5 GCSEs at grades A* – C; and in all schools at least 25% of pupils to achieve this standard by 2006, rising to 30% by 2008.

(*Children & Young People in Halton*)

- **Employment**

As part of the wider objective of full employment in every region, over the three years to Spring 2008, and taking account of the economic cycle:

- demonstrate progress on increasing the employment rate;
- increase the employment rates of disadvantaged groups (lone parents, ethnic minorities, people aged 50 and over, those with the lowest qualifications, and those living in the local authority wards with the poorest initial labour market position)
- significantly reduce the difference between the employment rates of the disadvantaged groups and the overall rate.
(*Employment Learning & Skills in Halton*)

- **Health**

Substantially reduce mortality rates by 2010:

- from heart disease and stroke and related diseases by at least 40% in people in under 75, with at least a 40% reduction in the inequalities gap between the fifth of areas with the worst health and deprivation indicators and the population as a whole;
- from cancer by at least 20% in people under 75, with a reduction in the inequalities gap of at least 6% between the fifth of areas with the worst health and deprivation indicators and the population as a whole.
(*A Healthy Halton*)

Reduce health inequalities by 10% by 2010 as measured by infant mortality and life expectancy at birth.

(Health)

Tackle the underlying determinants of ill health and health inequalities by:

- reducing adult smoking rates to 21% or less by 2010, with a reduction in prevalence among routine and manual groups to 26% or less
- reducing the under-18 conception rate by 50% by 2010 as part of a broader strategy to improve sexual health.

(A Healthy Halton & Children & Young People in Halton)

- **Housing**

By 2010, bring all social housing into a decent condition, with most of this improvement taking place in deprived areas and for vulnerable households in the private sector, including families with children, increase the proportion who live in homes that are in a decent condition.

(Halton's Urban Renewal / Children & Young People in Halton)

- **Liveability**

Lead the delivery of cleaner, safer and greener public spaces and improvement of the quality of the built environment in deprived areas and across the country, with measurable improvement by 2008.

(Halton's Urban Renewal / A Safer Halton)

Several other deprivation-related targets that fall outside these six areas include:

- **Economic performance**

Make sustainable improvements in the economic performance of all English regions by 2008, and over the long term reduce the persistent gap in growth rates between the regions, demonstrating progress by 2006.

(Halton's Urban Renewal / Employment Learning & Skills in Halton)

- **Enterprise society**

Build an enterprise society in which small firms of all kinds thrive and achieve their potential, with:

- (i) an increase in the number of people considering going into business,
- (ii) an improvement in the overall productivity of small firms
- (iii) more enterprise in disadvantaged communities.

(Employment Learning & Skills in Halton)

- **Fire fatalities**

No local fire and rescue authority having a fatality rate, from accidental fires in the home, more than 1.25 times the national average by 2010.

(A Safer Halton)

- **Road Safety**

Reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured in Great Britain in road accidents by 40%, and the number of children killed or seriously injured by 50%, by 2010 compared with the average for 1994-98, tackling the significantly higher incidence in disadvantaged communities.

(A Safer Halton)