

REPORT TO: Halton Strategic Partnership Board
DATE: 17 May 2006
SUBJECT: Local Area Agreements

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

A Local Area Agreement (LAA) is a 3 year agreement that sets out the priorities for a local area, agreed between central government and a local area, represented by the lead local authority and other key partners through Local Strategic Partnerships. The Board has always been keen to pursue a Local Area Agreement for Halton as a means of operationalising the new Community strategy. Government has stipulated that Halton will be in Round 3 of the programme. The purpose of this report is to update the Board on the process and progress to date.

2. RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board:

- a) Notes the report and the outline of the process;
- b) Agree that Halton should pursue a single-pot agreement shaped around the five priorities of the Community strategy; and,
- c) Agree that the Lead Officers Group described in this report, in consultation with the Chair, develop the outcome framework for submission by 30 June.
- d) Provide any views about how this initial submission should be framed

3. BACKGROUND

The arguments in favour of LAAs are compelling. LAAs will join up, focus and simplify the administration of activity in a complex area of public policy. They provide a framework for partnerships to grow and develop and are a tool for driving efficiency. Normally, LAAs are based upon four blocks established around the shared priorities for Government:

- Enterprise & Economic Development
- Healthier communities, and older people
- Safer and stronger communities
- Children and young people

However, these blocks should not be viewed as a constraint, and the more pertinent issue is the need for joined up policy. Therefore, other local priorities should be considered and negotiated, and there is the opportunity for the development of further blocks. We also need to consider the importance of partnership and community engagement in the development process, and the role freedoms and flexibilities can play. The Board will remember that the priorities agreed in the Community Strategy largely mirror the four blocks, with the exception of Urban Renewal. The Board is asked to agree that a starting point for the Halton LAA is that it is framed around our agreed five priorities rather than the four blocks.

Halton has bid to Government to develop a “Single pot” LAA. Single Pot areas are selected on the basis that their performance across a range of delivery services is good. For single pot areas, it will not be necessary to group either outcomes or funding streams under the four LAA blocks. Areas will have freedom to spend any pooled funding on the achievement of any of the outcomes agreed as part of the LAA. Targets will need to be included for all mandatory outcomes and indicators. The aim of the single pot LAA is to further investigate the key benefits of this additional flexibility. A decision for Government is still awaited on this request. However, the development process has been set in train nonetheless.

There is the opportunity within LAAs to request enabling measures (previously called freedoms & flexibilities). This is where we would wish to remove government-imposed barriers which would get in the way of delivering LAA outcomes and targets. These are not intended to alter legislation, or request central intervention on matters which should be settled locally. Enabling Measures are agreed on a case-by-case basis – but there are a small number of automatic Enabling Measures around finance

4. CONSIDERATIONS

Finance - A key part of LAAs is the opportunity to rationalise financial arrangements in an area. This can help reduce bureaucracy and transaction costs leading to greater efficiency and effectiveness in achieving outcomes for local people. Certain area-specific funding will be available to the LAA as pooled funding from government e.g.. NRF, SSCF, Teenage pregnancy, LEGI. In addition, certain mainstream funding streams e.g.. RSG, Police, NHS and schools funding – can be aligned locally behind the LAA if partners agree. If appropriate, funding from Non-Departmental Public Bodies can also be aligned locally by agreement e.g.. RDAs, Big Lottery, LSCs, Sport England. It will be vital in the early stage of constructing the LAA to map the funding streams we have available over the life of the agreement and for Partners to come to a consensus on our approach to pooling and aligning of funding streams.

LAAs do not carry with them extra funding, apart from a reward element. However, this is merely a rebranding of the financial rewards of local public service agreements (LPSA 2). Halton has just negotiated its LPSA2 and agreed its targets and arrangements for dividing pump-priming monies. Therefore, the LPSA2 will be incorporated into the LAA.

Timetable - Government has set out a fairly specific timetable for the process leading to the adoption of an LAA. This is as follows:

- By 30 June - establish draft outcomes framework, including mandatory outcomes and indicators, around which the LAA will be developed - plus initial Reward Element proposals. This framework must be received by GONW from all LAA areas by end June. So, this is largely a period of preparation and stakeholder engagement
- By end September - LAA areas are due to submit first draft LAAs to GONW. These must include indicators and indicative targets, funding streams, the business case for Enabling Measures, a draft Statement of Community Involvement, and partnership arrangements.
- By December, final drafts must be received by GONW. Ministerial sign-off will be during February 2007, with LAAs being implemented from April 2007.

Principles - There is clearly much to do in a relatively short period of time. One of the key tasks at the outset is for the partnership to agree the principles that will underpin the agreement. These will largely mirror the ethos we agreed as underpinning the development of our community Strategy. The following is a summary of some of these, and the Board is asked to comment on this and offer additions or amendments:

- Vehicle for collective priority setting
- Vehicle to re-engineer partner relationships
- Medium term strategic resource allocation
- Opportunity to reduce bureaucracy, duplication and inefficiency
- Opportunity for both funding and structures to follow priorities
- Continue to plough resources into delivery, not process
- Create more dynamic and transparent structures which reflect strategic priorities
- Accelerate partnership working and community engagement
- Improve outcomes for Halton people

Process - It is clear that we have in place many of the building blocks in Halton that will enable a strong and robust LAA to be put in place. These include established governance framework for the Partnership and the understanding that the Board and SSPs will take the lead role in driving this forward. The Priorities Process, our strategic planning process is complete, and we have a new Community Strategy framed around the LAA structure. The Community Strategy has 54-shared outcomes, which already address the LAA Mandatory Outcomes. We have already successfully negotiated our LPSA 2 put in place arrangements for sharing out the Pump Priming monies. The 12 LPSA2 targets have been put in place behind Community Strategy and will be passported into the LAA. In addition we have an SSCF Mini-LAA already in place, which will be an important component of our final LAA.

Planning – as an initial outline, it is suggested that the following key steps and milestones help trace our path for the rest of the year:

- Lead Officers Facilitate Initial SSP sessions - May
- GONW Challenge Day – May 8
- Board Discussion 17 May & Endorsement of Outline Framework
- Draft Outcomes Framework finalised June (LOG)
- SSP Chairs Agree (28 June) & submit to GONW
- Partners Event to shape LAA - 12 July
- Draft LAA end of August (LOG)
- Board Endorse LAA 12 September
- Council Executive Board Endorse September
- Submit LAA to GONW end of September
- Negotiation Process Oct/Nov (LOG)
- Formal Endorsement to Final LAA (Dec)
- Final Submission – Xmas

This is obviously only a skeleton of the process and overlays a great deal of activity. Each of the Lead officers will need to plan a detailed subsidiary process with partners through the SSPs to develop the detail of the agreement.

5. CONCLUSION

GONW visited Halton on 8 May, saw examples of service delivery hubs across the borough, and engaged in an initial discussion with partners about the scope and process for LAAs. This was very useful in providing a starting point for the LAA development process. The Board will note that the first milestone is for the Partnership to submit to GONW the framework for the LAA. As this paper makes clear the Halton standpoint is for a single-pot LAA based on the five agreed priorities in our recently adopted sustainable community strategy, and incorporating the outcomes and targets already agreed by Partners for LPSA2 and SSCF. A paper summarising this into a Framework document is attached as an Annex to this report. The Board is asked to endorse this as our initial jumping off point.

Annex 1

Halton Local area Agreement: Initial Framework

Introduction

This agreement sets out a clear vision of making small changes across many issues that will make a big difference to life in Halton. It aims to give people opportunities and choice. We want to build people’s aspirations and abilities so they can exercise greater control and choice in their lives. Having done so we want to ensure we provide the quality of life and opportunities locally so that people choose to live and work here

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<p>Vision</p>	<p>Halton will be a thriving and vibrant borough where people can learn and develop their skills, enjoy a good quality of life with good health; a high quality, modern urban environment; the opportunity for all to fulfil their potential; greater wealth and equality; sustained by a thriving business community; and within safer, stronger and more attractive neighbourhood.</p>
<p>Priorities</p>	<p>A Healthy Halton - <i>To create a healthier community and work to promote well being - a positive experience of life with good health</i></p> <p>Halton's Urban Renewal - <i>To transform the urban fabric and infrastructure, to develop exciting places and spaces and to create a vibrant and accessible borough</i></p> <p>Halton's Children and Young People - To ensure that in Halton children and young people are safeguarded, healthy and happy</p> <p>Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton - <i>To create an economically prosperous borough that encourages investment, entrepreneurship, enterprise and business growth</i></p> <p>A Safer Halton - <i>To ensure pleasant safe and secure neighbourhood environments where people can enjoy life.</i></p>
<p>Approach</p>	<p>Closing the gap between the most deprived communities in the borough and in Halton overall.</p> <p>Tackling inequality and promoting community cohesion, so that no community is disadvantaged.</p> <p>Making what we do sustainable so that our quality of life is protected and enhanced for the benefit of current and future generations.</p> <p>Investing in preventative activity that stops problems occurring rather than paying for actions to fix things that are going wrong. We need to invest more in success, rather than in failure.</p>
<p>Principles</p>	<p>Leadership – <i>the Partnership's role is to give clear strategic leadership to the borough and enable people to make the necessary contribution to make a difference.</i></p> <p>Fair and inclusive – <i>promoting equal access to opportunities and facilities. This includes the need to positively target activity at the most deprived geographical areas or particular groups of people.</i></p> <p>Good value – <i>being economical, efficient and effective in delivering 'Best Value' for the public..</i></p> <p>Collaborative – <i>this is about collective responsibility for making things better and embedding partnership approaches in everything that we do.</i></p> <p>Evidence-based – <i>ensuring we learn from best practice elsewhere and make good use of research about what works in</i></p>

	<i>addressing the borough's priorities.</i>
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This vision and approach arises directly out of the newly agreed community strategy - Making It Happen In Halton – A Community Strategy For A Sustainable Halton. The agreement is being refined through an extensive partnership exercise involving all stakeholders from the Halton Strategic Partnership.

The Partnership has agreed that the LAA will be framed around the five priorities agreed in the Community Strategy. These encompass the four blocks suggested by Government but take a wider view of what the priorities are for Halton. The urban renewal agenda is included because revitalising the physical fabric of the borough is a key underpinning to our regeneration agenda.

Also relevant are the cross cutting themes that Halton has adopted which are pertinent to each of our five blocks. We want to shift our focus to prevention measures, to promoting positive lifestyles and the many excellent aspects of life in Halton, and to more timely interventions to help people at the times when they most need support. Our ways of working will focus on:

- Poverty and material deprivation
- Choice and quality in neighbourhoods and housing
- Equality of opportunity for disabled people and ending discrimination.
- Policies and programmes that look forward and help to achieve sustainable development

We want to sharpen up service delivery and focus on the things that will make the most difference. The key measure of whether service delivery is transformed is how far and how fast we can narrow the gap in outcomes for the most disadvantaged in Halton, as measured by comparison with both Halton and national averages. The Halton Strategic Partnership will be accountable for achieving the outcomes set out in this agreement.

Summary of the Blocks

The following sections set out our objectives and shared outcomes agreed by partners through the Priorities Process. These make up the framework of Halton's Community Strategy.

1. Healthy Halton

Key Objectives

- A To understand fully the causes of ill health in Halton and act together to improve the overall health and well being of local people

B To lay firm foundations for a healthy start in life and support those most in need in the community by maximising and promoting autonomy.

- C To promote a healthy living environment and lifestyles to protect the health of the public, sustain individual good health and well being, and help prevent and efficiently manage illness
- D To reduce the burden of disease in Halton by concentrating on lowering the rates of cancer and heart disease, mental ill health and diabetes and addressing the health needs of older people
- E To remove the barriers that disable people and contribute to poor health through ensuring that people have ready access to a wide range of social, community and housing services, and cultural and sporting activities that enhance their quality of life

Improvement targets

By 2010 we aim to:

- Life expectancy** Narrow the gap at birth with the national average by at least 10%
- Heart disease** Reduce the death rate (in under 75s) by 53%
- Cancer** Reduce the death rate (in under 75s) by 26%
- Equity** Narrow the gap so that the overall death rate in any ward is no more than 25% above the Halton average
- Satisfaction** Improve public satisfaction with the quality of health and social care services year on year
- Birth weight** Reduce the proportion of low birth weight babies by 10%
- Conception** Reduce the rate among girls under 18 by 55%
- Lifestyle** Reduce adult smoking rates to under 22%
- Culture** Increase take up of cultural and sporting activities by adults by 5%
- Housing** All social housing to have affordable heating systems and insulation levels that exceed the national minimum guidelines

2. Urban Renewal

Key Objectives

- A To create and sustain a twenty first century business environment with the required variety and quality of sites, premises and infrastructure that can support high levels of investment and economic growth and increase Halton's competitiveness
- B To revitalise the town centres to create dynamic, well-designed high quality commercial areas that can continue to meet the needs of local people, investors, businesses and visitors

- C To support and sustain thriving neighbourhoods and open spaces that meet peoples expectations and add to their enjoyment of life
- D To ensure Halton designs in and maintains high levels of accessibility to places and spaces so that opportunity and need are matched, and provides excellent connectivity to the wider world through transport and ICT links.
- E To enhance, promote and celebrate the quality of the built and natural environment in Halton, including tackling the legacy of contamination and dereliction, to further improve the borough's image

Improvement Targets

By 2010 we aim to:

- Growth** Sustain levels of Gross Value Added (GVA)/capita at or above the regional norm.
- Jobs** increase the numbers of jobs in Halton by 10%
- Vitality** Increase prime rents on commercial property by 15%
- Reclamation** Bring 50ha of derelict land back into beneficial use
- Housing** Ensure the decency standard is met by all social housing
- Housing** Ensure 50% of all new housing is built on brownfield sites
- Premises** Facilitate bringing to market of at least 100,00 sq. m. of new and replacement commercial floorspace
- Town Centres** Increase footfall by 25% across the borough
- Transport** Increase proportion of buses starting route on time to 98% .
- Waste** Ensure 40% of municipal waste is recycled or composted
- Satisfaction** Improve the satisfaction rate of residents on quality of the built and natural environment by 10%

3. Children & Young People

Key Objectives

- A. To ensure all children and young people in Halton enjoy a healthy lifestyle that helps them to achieve physical and emotional well being
- B. To ensure all children and young people in Halton grow up and thrive in safe environments, communities, homes and families
- C. To ensure all children and young people in Halton participate and enjoy, learning to develop socially and achieving their full potential

- D. To ensure all children and young people in Halton engage in enterprising behaviour, are confident and make positive decisions about their lives and their communities
- E. To ensure all children and young people in Halton have positive futures after school by embracing life long learning, employment opportunities and enjoying a positive standard of living

Improvement targets

By 2010 we aim:

- Health** To increase to at least 85% the percentage of children fully immunised by their second birthday
- Safety** To reduce the number of children killed or seriously injured in road accidents to 13 per year (or below)
- Obesity** To stabilise the growth in obesity rates in the under 11's
- Foundation Stage** To increase to 60% the percentage of children whose personal, social and emotional development is assessed as "good" at the end of the Foundation Stage
- Attendance** To reduce unauthorised absence towards the national average in both primary and secondary schools by 6% and 10% respectively
- Attainment** To increase the number of pupils achieving 5+ GCSEs at Grades A*-C to at least 60%
- Key Stage 3** To improve the performance of pupils in Maths, Science and English so that attainment at least matches the national average
- Engaged** To reduce the number of young people not in employment, education or training to fewer than 7%
- Protect** To increase the reported perception of safety after dark by at least 15% by 2008
- Employability** To increase the number of 19 year olds with Level 2 qualifications by at least 30%
- Accessibility** To increase to 25% the number of 13-19 year olds that are reached by the youth service, and who have a youth centre or project open at least one night each week within a mile of their home
- Equity** To reduce the proportion of children living in homes with a relatively low income by at least 40%
- Care** To reduce the number of care leavers who live in temporary accommodation to at least 15%
- Statements** To reduce the proportion of pupils with statements of special education needs to 2.8%.

Crime To reduce year on year the number of first time entrants to the youth justice system

4. Employment & Skills

Key Objectives

- A To foster a culture of enterprise and entrepreneurship and make Halton an ideal place to start and grow economic activity
- B To develop a culture where learning is valued and raise skill levels throughout the adult population and in the local workforce
- C To promote and increase the employability of local people and remove any barriers to employment to get more people into work
- D To develop a strong, diverse, competitive and sustainable knowledge- based local economy

Improvement Targets

By 2010 we aim to:

Employment Increase employment rate by 2%

Economic Inactivity Reduce rate by 10%

Skills Increase number of adults qualified to Level 3 by 25%

Skills Increase number of adults qualified to Level 2 by 15%

Learning Reduce number of adults with no qualifications by 15%

Enterprise Increase rate of self-employment by 20%

Growth Increase number of VAT registrations by 15%

Knowledge economy Increase number of adults qualified to Level 4/5 by 15%

Equity Ensure unemployment rate in any ward is less than 20% above the borough average

5. Safer Halton

Key Objectives

- A To investigate and tackle the underlying causes of crime and disorder and respond effectively to public concern by reducing crime levels
- B To improve the understanding of alcohol and drug/substance misuse problems, their impact in Halton, and reduce the harm they cause

- C To create and sustain better neighbourhoods that are well designed, well built, well maintained, safe and valued by the people who live in them, reflecting the priorities of residents
- D To understand and tackle the problem of domestic abuse in all its forms

Improvement targets

By 2010 we aim to:

- Crime** Reduce the British Crime Survey comparator rate by 17.5%
- Violence** Reduce violent crime rates by 12%
- Burglary** Reduce burglary from dwellings by 40%
- Drugs Treatment** Increase the total numbers of places by 25%
- Drugs Treatment** Increase the retention rate for 12 weeks to 85%
- Fear of Crime** Reduce levels of expressed fear of crime and anti-social behaviour by 25%
- Alcohol** Reduce positive breath tests by 20%
- Domestic Abuse** Increase the number of victims accessing support by 20%
- Resident's Satisfaction** Raise satisfaction levels with the neighbourhood area where people live to above 63%
- Volunteering** Increase the rate of people involved in community activities by 30%
- Neighbourhood Management** Implement a local management scheme in all neighbourhoods in Halton

Safer and Stronger Communities Fund Agreement

The Safer Halton Partnership is one of the five thematic groups of the Local Strategic Partnership. Delivering the Safer and Stronger Communities Fund, its remit includes reducing crime, drugs harm reduction, enhancing liveability, and community engagement, as well as addressing domestic abuse and the range of issues caused by alcohol use. These priorities and the targets beneath them arise from an evidenced needs approach, addressing the main issues identified from robust statistics, perception surveys, and

Halton's performance against local and national targets. They will form a starting point for the SSCF block Haltons LAA.

Priority: Reducing crime

Aim: To reduce overall crime in Halton by 17.5% by 2008 (Home Office PSA 1)

What is the issue?

The Criminal Justice White Paper 2001 suggested that there were approximately one million active offenders in the general population at any one time. The active offender population is not static – as one offender leaves the stream, new offenders replace them. These are known as prolific offenders and the strategy will involve tackling these offenders. The POPO programme within Halton has been very successful. Of the 24 currently managed prolific and persistent offenders, the rate of re-offending has dropped by an average of 77.6%.

In Halton, figures show that theft from vehicles, violent crime (much of which is common assault and minor wounding), and criminal damage are areas that require action. Violent crime in particular has risen over recent years

Violent crime is strongly associated with alcohol use. In Halton during 2002/03, almost 15% of such offences were linked to the effects of alcohol. (Home Office Recorded Crime Statistics). For criminal damage, national figures show nearly 50% of crimes are linked to drinking.

What will we do?

- High visibility neighbourhood policing
- POPO (targeting the 15 to 20 most Prolific and Other Priority Offenders to reduce overall crime rates)
- Ensuring safety on public transport
- Crime reduction target-hardening projects
- Gather and analyse intelligence with a view to introducing and establishing dedicated projects and initiatives which tackle all aspects of crime and disorder throughout Halton
- Hold Partnership Tasking & Co-ordination meetings every two weeks to enable problems to be quickly identified and for a multi-agency approach to be taken to address them.

The following approaches will be used to tackle crime and disorder in Halton:

- Diversion
- Engagement
- Enforcement

Targets for 2008

- Reduce by 17.5% the British Crime Survey comparator crimes (SSCF Mandatory)
- Monitor racial incidents and ensure effective further action is taken when appropriate
- Reduce by 17% the theft from and theft of vehicles
 - Reduce the number of thefts of vehicles in Halton from 753 (03/04) to 588 in 07/08 (LPSA2)
 - Reduce the number of thefts from vehicles in Halton from 1108 (03/04) to 749 in 07/08 (LPSA2)
- Reduce the number of recorded incidents of violent crime within Halton from 2,133 in 03/04 to 1,913 in 07/08 (LPSA2) ((serious woundings and common assault).
- A 20% reduction in criminal damage
- Reduce burglary from dwellings by 40%
- A 12% reduction in re-offending rates, especially in prolific and persistent offenders, with 8% by 2007 (HO PSA 1)
- A 79% reduction in re-offending rates in POPO
- Reduce by 5% re-offending by young people under 18 years of age (YJB Target)
- Increase the perception of safety after dark by 15%
- Reduce by 2% each year the number of first time entrants to the youth justice system (YJB Target)
- To establish a baseline for offending by Looked After Children in Halton and make progress to onwards average levels of offending in the relevant LAC authority 'family' group. (proposed new target from YOT)
- All young offenders referred to the YOT be assessed for drugs misuse and of those requiring a specialist assessment that this is done within 5 working days and the following assessment access treatment/intervention within ten working days. (proposed new target from YOT)
- Mental Health- All young people known to the YOT identified by ASSET as requiring Acute Mental Health Services to receive an assessment within five working days of the referral to CAMHS and non- acute cases within 15 working days. (proposed new target from YOT)
- To ensure prolific young offenders are dealt with for arrest to sentence within the 71 day national target. (proposed new target from YOT)
- To ensure that 75% of those victims receiving a service from the YOT are satisfied with that service. (proposed new target from YOT)

Priority: Drugs harm reduction

Aim: To reduce the harm caused by illegal drugs (Home Office PSA 4)

What is the issue?

The National Drug Strategy encompasses four broad themes: treatment, young people, communities and reducing drug supply. The overarching aim of the national strategy is to reduce the harm caused by illegal drugs to individuals, their families and the wider community.

In Halton, 538 people accessed treatments for drugs misuse during 2003/04. This is estimated to increase to over 700 people by March 2006. Estimates of the total number drug misusers in the borough range from 1,100 (Home Office) to 1,700 (John Moores University). In a survey of 2,500 people in 2005, 36% of local residents perceived drug use to be a problem in their area. Locally, there is a need to improve our understanding of injecting behaviour so as to improve service's responses to preventing the spread of blood borne viruses. There is also a need to provide more information to young people about the consequences drug and alcohol use can have on their lives.

What will we do?

Cross-cutting:

- Improve the provision of information about drugs and drug services to the community and professionals
- Improve the quality of services delivered through
 - The involvement of service users, carers and their families in the planning and delivery of drug services
 - Ensuring front line staff have the skills and competencies required to engage with, and provide services for, people who use drugs
- Reduce the harm to health caused by illegal drugs, particularly in relation to blood borne viruses, overdose and smoking

Treatment:

- Continue to increase the number of individuals accessing and being retained in treatment services, in particular women and referrals from the criminal justice system.
- To develop the one stop shop approach with both drug and wrap-around services, thereby improving the treatment journey.
- Improving support to those affected by an individuals drug use, with particular emphasis on improving outcomes for the children of drug using parents
- Developing and implementing a Harm Reduction Strategy for Halton.
- Developing a workforce with the necessary skills to deliver the effectiveness strategy.

Young people:

- Through Halton's Children and Young Peoples Alliance, establish a Preventative mini-trust. Combining young people's substance misuse, teenage pregnancy and the Children's Fund, this innovative arrangement will seek to re-direct resources to provide additional front line services. It will also ensure that:
 - Substance misuse services are delivered to young people and in particular, those who are vulnerable
 - Effective prevention programmes are in place to divert young people, particularly those who are vulnerable, from substance misuse and criminality
 - The outcomes for children and young people whose parents are problematic drug users are improved

Reducing supply:

- Take vigorous action to disrupt street dealing and work with neighbouring constabularies to address the issues of drug supply into the Borough
- Continue to develop multi-agency approaches to disrupting drug supply that reduces the risk of displacing drugs activity to other parts of the Borough
- Work to reduce the fear of drug dealing and drug use in communities

Targets for 2008

- Increase the number of individuals in treatment from 604 in 2004/05 to 790 in 2008/09 (LPSA2)
- Increase the percentage of individuals starting treatment who are retained in treatment for over 12 weeks from 80% in 2004/05 to 88% in 2008/09 (LPSA2)
- The numbers of young people with a substance misuse problem that choose to have treatment will increase by 60% from the current baseline by 2008
- Young people and their families will be supported in dealing with the harm caused by drug misuse by the numbers of parents/carers/siblings accessing specialist support services increasing from 7 in 2005 to 40 by 2008
- Reduce the perception of local drug use or drug dealing (SSCF Mandatory)
- To arrest 5 offenders for supplying class A drugs per month

Priority: Enhancing liveability and community engagement

Aim: To ensure cleaner, safer and greener public spaces (Office of the Deputy Prime Minister PSA 8) and increase voluntary and community engagement (Home Office PSA 6)

What is the issue?

In Halton, the opinions of 2,500 local residents were surveyed in 2005. 33.6% of them considered that anti-social behaviour was a local problem, and providing opportunities for young people was the strongest request to make neighbourhoods better places to live. Removing rubbish, and cleaning the streets and verges was felt to be the biggest environmental improvement to be made, and only one in three people felt they could currently affect local decision-making. Halton has made impressive progress with regard to road safety, dramatically cutting the number of people killed or seriously injured, but there is still more to do in this area.

The quality of the local environment impacts on people's health, their fear of crime, and the social and economic vibrancy of the area. Poor quality spaces are visible indicators of decline and disadvantage. Some groups such as children, young people, and older people are disproportionately affected by poor quality public spaces and can become inhibited from walking to school or the local shops, or from meeting friends. Improving the environmental quality therefore supports regeneration and investment, encouraging people to want to live and work within Halton. The Government document *Living Places – Cleaner, Safer, Greener* (Office of the Deputy Prime Minister October 2002), *'Sustainable communities: building for the future'*, and the Home Office *'Together – tackling anti-social behaviour action plan'* are addressing six key issues:

- Creating attractive and welcoming parks, play areas and public spaces
- Improving the physical fabric and infrastructure of places
- Making places cleaner and maintaining them better
- Making places safer and tackling anti-social behaviour
- Engaging and empowering local people and communities
- Catering for children and young people

This is now further supported by the introduction of the RESPECT agenda which is focused on the following key themes.

1. Young People
2. Schools
3. Support for parents and families
4. Housing
5. Neighbourhoods

6. Enforcement against anti-social behaviour

The Safer Halton Partnership is committed to engaging with the local community to help ensure that those who live and work in Halton have the opportunity to contribute to improving their own neighbourhoods. By engaging with local people, better results are produced with and for the people who live and work in Halton.

What will we do?

- Improve the local environment and tackle the effects of low-level crimes such as criminal damage, anti-social behaviour, and graffiti through their prompt removal or reduction
- Ensure appropriate and effective street lighting, clean streets, and well-maintained public space, which helps create a feeling of security
- Reduce fly-tipping, remove of abandoned vehicles, and therefore reduce arson of abandoned vehicles, to improve the environment
- Working with Area Forums to bring about environmental improvements in all areas of the Borough – this work reflects the priorities of the public thus improving public perceptions and attractiveness
- Local people need to become more informed and involved with local decision making, and be encouraged to take an active part in helping make their local neighbourhoods a better place to live – methods include:
 - Surveys
 - Area Forums and Participation and Delivery meetings
 - Service and initiative based engagement
 - Halton Together, Halton's Community Empowerment Network who administer the Single Community Programme

Targets for 2008

- Increase residents' satisfaction of cleanliness by 10% (2004 baseline 57.9%)
- Reduce deliberate vehicle fires by 6%
- Reduce fly tipping by 10% (flycapture)
- Reduce nuisance fires by 10%
- Reduce detritus and litter density to 16% (BVPI 100(a))
- Reduce the perception and reports of anti-social behaviour being an issue of concern to residents by 7% (SSCF Mandatory)
- Increase the number of parks and green spaces with Green Flag Award from a baseline of 5 in 2006 to 7 in 2008.
- Increase by 3% the number of residents satisfied with local parks and open spaces by 06/07 (baseline 71% 03/04) (BV119e)
- Reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured in road collisions by 39% (Floor Target)
- Reduce the number of children killed or seriously injured in road collisions by 46% (Floor Target)
- Increase the perception that individuals can influence decisions affecting their local area by 3% (2005 Baseline 30% in "Consulting communities of Halton" Survey) (SSCF Mandatory Indicator) (Increase the capacity of local communities to participate in local decision-making and influence service delivery (SSCF Mandatory))
- Increase by 4% the proportion of residents who feel that their local area is a place where people can get on well together (2005 Baseline 80% in "Consulting communities of Halton" Survey) (SSCF Mandatory Indicator)
- Increase by 10% the number of residents who affirm that they carried out voluntary work in the past year (2005 Baseline 26% in "Consulting communities of Halton" Survey) (SSCF Mandatory Indicator)
- Maintain the capacity of the local VCS in the borough as measured by volume of public service delivery (2005/06 baseline 1.3%) (SSCF Mandatory Indicator)
- Growth of the local VCS by 1% per year
- A 7% reduction in the number of incidents of anti-social behaviour recorded by the police, classified as drunkenness and criminal damage to public and private property by the end of 06/07.

Priority: Alcohol harm reduction

Aim: To develop a strategic approach to address the harm caused by alcohol

What is the issue?

In 2004 the Government produced the National Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy, which underlined the important part alcohol plays in the UK economy. The National Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy prioritises certain key aims:

- To improve the information available to individuals and to start the process of change in the culture of drinking to get drunk
- To better identify and treat alcohol misuse
- To prevent and tackle alcohol-related crime and disorder through better coordination and enforcement
- To work with the alcohol industry to promote responsible drinking

It is clear from the wider context within which Halton's Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy is being developed that the way forward for the Borough is not to adopt a short term time frame for action or a purely reactive approach to the harms caused by alcohol misuse; neither is it appropriate for organisations to work in isolation. Collaborative partnership working is the backdrop to this strategy; its primary view must be long-term and its impetus for action is prevention of harm.

The strategic vision for Halton with regards to alcohol is that it aspires to be a place where;

- People can enjoy alcohol in moderation in a good quality environment that is safe and attractive, and as part of a healthy and pleasurable lifestyle
- Alcohol is supplied responsibly, in a way that contributes to the quality of leisure, social life and a thriving local economy
- Alcohol ceases to be a significant cause of crime or ill-health, anti-social behaviour, family disruption, abuse or neglect, violence, including domestic violence, or any other related harm
- The costs to the general public from alcohol misuse are kept to a minimum and where possible eliminated

The achievement of Halton's vision depends on certain guiding principles being recognised and adhered to. That;

- Everyone has responsibilities
- Cooperation and partnership is the key to success
- Costs must be shared fairly.
- Health and safety are paramount
- Clear regulations and enforcement set the standards.

Priority: Domestic abuse

Aim: To develop a strategic approach to reduce the harm caused by domestic abuse

What is the issue?

Traditionally, domestic violence is an under-reported crime, only becoming apparent after several offences or when children become affected. In Halton, 1,476 domestic abuse offences were recorded by the police in 2004/5. Statistics are also held by the Drug Action Team, Primary Care Trust and Halton Borough Council. These and many other agencies are committed to addressing the issue. The domestic court pilot is taking place in 05/06 and to date there has been 1200 DV incidents reported to the police.

What will we do?

- Raise awareness of domestic abuse
- Improve recording of suspected domestic abuse incidents
- Challenge attitudes that lead to acceptance of domestic abuse
- Promote inter-agency collaboration and information exchange
- Identify and address the causes of domestic abuse
- Strive to minimise the negative impact where domestic abuse does occur
- Develop a baseline study and strategy that addresses the issues identified by 2007

Targets for 2008

- Increase awareness of domestic abuse throughout the community to challenge attitudes
- Provision and effectiveness of services to help victims of and prevent domestic abuse
- To ensure that within the local authority area a minimum of 1 refuge place per 10,000 population is available
- To reduce the percentage of cases accepted as homeless due to domestic abuse that had previously been re-housed in the last two years by that local authority as a result of domestic abuse
- To deliver a programme of multi-agency training covering front line and managerial staff from within housing, social services; education; health and police
- To increase the number of incidents of domestic abuse reported to the police (directly or through a third party) by 10% from a baseline of 1613 incidents in 04/05 to 1774 incidents in 07/08. (LPSA2)
- To increase the number of incidents of domestic abuse, which result in sanction detections by 5% from a baseline in 05/06 (LPSA2)
- To reduce the proportion of the total number of incidents of domestic abuse reported annually to the police (directly or through a third party) in the same period who are repeat victims from a baseline of 23% in 03 /04 to 18% in 07/08 (LPSA2)
- To reduce the number of violent crimes (common assault and other wounding) which are domestic abuse related

- To increase by 5% the number of victims being referred onto a support service
- To increase by 5% arrest and charge of perpetrators where a crime has been committed
- To reduce by 10% the occurrence of prosecutors not offering evidence at trial
 - Reduce the attrition rate by 50% (LCJB)

Priority: Neighbourhood Management

Aim: To deliver a Neighbourhood Management pilot within three areas of Halton, through better coordination of services in order to improve the quality of life and outcomes for local people.

What is the issue?

Neighbourhood management is intended to address problems in deprived neighbourhoods by managing and co-ordinating resources and services to achieve a greater combined impact. A sound neighbourhood approach should lay the foundations for delivery of improvements to liveability and public services, transforming neighbourhoods and empowering local people. To support this approach the Safer and Stronger Communities Fund Neighbourhood Element (SSCF NE) has been made available to selected local authorities on the basis of deprivation. This funding is to establish management arrangements to make better use of existing resources. In particular it aims to better focus activity in order to close the gap between deprived areas and others. Halton's allocation from the neighbourhood element, is:

<i>2006 – 07</i>	<i>2007 – 08</i>	<i>2008 – 09</i>	<i>2009 – 2010</i>
£412,800	£516,000	£412,800	£258,000

What will we do?

Establishment of three Neighbourhood Management Areas for Halton. There are six SOA's within Halton, which are within the worst 3% nationally. Halton will establish three neighbourhood management areas for Halton, each containing two of the worst 3% SOAs. These are central Widnes including Kingsway, Stewards Avenue and Lacey Street area, Castlefields and Windmill Hill and Halton Lea, which includes Palacefields and Hallwood Park. The total population of the three proposed areas is 16,753.

Targets for 2008

- Increase the percentage of residents reporting on increase in satisfaction with their neighbourhoods (SSCF Mandatory)
- Develop and deliver an action plan for neighbourhood management within Halton.
- Develop and performance manage local neighbourhood management targets and outcomes

LAA Reward Element

Halton Borough Council and the Government have already negotiated a Local Public Service Agreement (Local PSA) with the intention of further improving the services to local people. This agreement covers the period 1 April 2005 to 31 March 2008. It is intended that this agreement will be subsumed into the LAA. The agreed outcomes and targets are as follows.

Outcome 1	Reduce the level of violent crime
Indicator by which performance will be measured	
Number of recorded incidents of violent crime within Halton (serious woundings and common assault).	
Current Performance (2003/04)	
2,133	
<u>Performance at the end of the period of the Local PSA (2007/08)</u>	
Performance expected <u>without</u> the LPSA	
1,967	
Performance target with the Local PSA	
1,913	
Enhancement in performance with the Local PSA	
54	

Outcome 2 Reduction in vehicle crime in Halton

Indicators by which performance will be measured

- i) The number of thefts of vehicles in Halton
- ii) The number of thefts from vehicles in Halton

Police recorded crime data

Current Performance (2003/04)

- i) 753
- ii) 1108

Performance at the end of the period of the Local PSA (2007/08)

Performance expected without the LPSA

- i) 625
- ii) 920

Performance target with the Local PSA

- i) 588
- ii) 749

Enhancement in performance with the Local PSA

- i) 37
- ii) 171

Outcome 3. Improving the health and well-being of residents.

Indicator by which performance will be measured

The percentage of adults in Halton participating in at least 30 minutes moderate intensity sport and active recreation (including recreational walking) on 3 or more days a week, as measured by Sport England's Active People survey.¹

Current performance (November 2006)

X%²

Performance at the end of the period of the LPSA (November 2009)

Performance expected without the Local PSA

X% (no change)

Performance expected with the Local PSA

X% + 5%

Enhancement in performance with the Local PSA

5%

Outcome 4. Tackling the problems of domestic violence

Indicators by which performance will be measured

1. The number of incidents of domestic violence¹ reported to the police (directly or through a third party) in Halton.
2. The proportion of incidents of domestic violence¹ which result in a sanction detection.
3. The proportion of the total number of incidents of domestic violence reported annually to the police (directly or through a third party) in the same period who are repeat victims.³

Current performance

1. 1613 (1/4/04 - 31/03/2005 - CAVA data)
2. Number of sanction detections (2005/06 - CAVA data)
3. 23% (1/04/03 - 31/03/04 - MIU data)

Performance at the end of the LPSA period

The period over which the with LPSA performance will be measured will be 01/04/2007 to 31/03/2008

Performance expected without the LPSA

1. 1694
2. (Baseline + 2%)
3. 21%

Performance target with the LPSA

1. 1774
2. (Baseline + 5%)
3. +8%

Enhancement in performance with the LPSA

1. 80
 2. ?
- 3 percentage points.

Outcome 5. Reducing the harm caused by drug misuse.

Indicators by which performance will be measured

- 1: The number of individuals in Halton who are in contact with structured drug treatment services as per the LDP definition and measured by the National Drug Treatment Monitoring System (NDTMS March 2006 methodology).
- 2: The percentage of individuals in Halton starting treatment who are retained in treatment for over 12 weeks as defined by the NTA methodology and measured by the National Drug Treatment

Monitoring System (NDTMS March 2006 methodology).

Current performance (2004/05)

1: 604
2: 80%

Performance at the end of the LPSA period

This will be measured over the period 1/4/2008 to 31/3/2009

Performance expected without the Local PSA

1: 680
2: 85%

Performance target with the Local PSA

1: 790
2: 88%

Enhancement in performance with the Local PSA

1: 110
2: 3%

Outcome 6. Improve the liveability of local neighbours by making environmental improvements

Indicator by which performance will be measured

Indicator 1: Reduction in the number of incidents of vehicle arson

Indicator 2: Reduction in the number of incidents of fly-tipping reported through the fly-capture database.

Indicator 3: Increase in overall recycling and composting performance

Current Performance

Indicator 1: 200 (Jan - Dec 05)

Indicator 2: Estimated 2,100 (Based upon actual figures Apr05-Feb 06)

Indicator 3: 22.8% (2004/05)

Performance expected without the LPSA

Indicator 1: 170

Indicator 2: 2037 (3% reduction)

Indicator 3: 23.8% (1% increase)

Performance target with the Local PSA

Indicator 1: 140
Indicator 2: 1890)
Indicator 3: 25%

Enhancement in performance with the Local PSA

Indicator 1: 30
Indicator 2: 147 (7%)
Indicator 3: 1.2%

Notes/Definition

Reward grant to be proportioned as follows:

Indicator 1: 40%
Indicator 2: *Based on current estimates, the planned extensions to the Councils services in 2006/07 could increase recycling by 1%, giving a total of 23.8% combined recycling and composting. (Anticipated waste growth could have the effect of reducing this level marginally).

Indicator 3:

Outcome 7. Improving Health and Well-being

Indicator by which performance will be measured

The number of people reporting to NHS stop smoking services in Halton who had set a quit date and who are still not smoking at the four weeks review, counted according to DH protocol.

Current performance (2005/6)

850

Performance at the end of the LPSA period

This will be measured over the period 1/4/2008 to 31/3/2009

Performance expected without the Local PSA

1200

Performance target with the Local PSA

2000

Enhancement in performance with the Local PSA

800

Outcome 8. Improved care for long term conditions and support for carers

Indicators by which performance will be measured

- (i). Number unplanned emergency bed days¹ (Halton PCT registered population aged 65+)
- (ii) Number of carers receiving a specific carer service² from Halton Council and its partners, after receiving a carer's assessment or review.

Current performance

indicator (i) 2004/05,
indicator (ii) first six months of 2004/05

- (i) 58,649
- (ii) 195

Performance at end of LPSA period

Indicator (i) 2008/09
Indicator (ii) 2008/09

Performance expected without the Local PSA

- (i) Reduction of 2% from finalised 04/05 figure (provisionally 57,476)
- (ii) 400

Performance target with the Local PSA

- (ii) Reduction of 6% from finalised 04/05 figure (provisionally 55,130)
- (ii) 600

Enhancement in performance with the Local PSA

- (i) 4% of finalised 04/05 figure (provisionally 2,345 bed days)
- (ii) 200

Outcome 9. Improve educational attainment at Key Stage 4

Indicator by which performance will be measured

The percentage of year 11 pupils gaining 5 GCSEs at grades A*-C or DfES agreed equivalents, including English and Maths

Current Performance (2004/05)

32.5%

Performance expected without the LPSA (2007/08)

39%

Performance target with the Local PSA (2007/08)

40.5%

Enhancement in performance with the Local PSA

1.5%

Outcome 10. Helping people improve their literacy, numeracy and spoken English.

Indicator by which performance will be measured

The number of adults who gain a Skills for Life Level 1 or Level 2 qualification in Adult Literacy (and or Numeracy) or an ESOL Skills for Life national qualification at Entry Level 1, Entry Level 2, Entry Level 3, Level 1 or Level 2

Current Performance (2004/05)

19

Performance at the end of the LPSA period
(measured in academic year ending 31/8/2008)

Performance expected without the LPSA

52

Performance target with the Local PSA

116

Enhancement in performance with the Local PSA

64

Outcome 11 Improved opportunities and levels of participation in ETE Looked after Children

Indicators by which performance will be measured

- Indicator 1: Increase the % school attendance of children who have been looked after for at least 12 months
- Indicator 2: Increase the % of the OC2 cohort achieving 1 A*-G grade at GCSE
- Indicator 3: Increase % of care leavers who are in ETE
- Indicator 4: Increase % of LAC under 16, looked after for more than 2.5 years, that have been in their current placement for at least 2 years (LAC 24)
- Indicator 5: To reduce the gap in performance between LAC in the OC2 cohort and all children in Halton schools achieving Level 4 at KS2 English
- Indicator 6: To reduce the gap in performance between LAC in the OC2 cohort and all children in Halton schools achieving Level 5 at KS3 English
- Indicator 7: To reduce the gap in performance between LAC in the OC2 cohort and all children in Halton schools achieving Level 5 at KS3 Maths
- Indicator 8: To reduce the gap in performance between LAC in the OC2 cohort and all children in Halton schools achieving Level 5 at KS3 Science

Current Performance

Indicator 1:	89.6% (September 2005)	Cohort – 109 young people
Indicator 2:	55%	Cohort – 9 young people
Indicator 3:	49%	Cohort - 83 young people
Indicator 4:	64.4%	Cohort - 87 young people
Indicator 5:	20% gap	
Indicator 6:	39% gap	
Indicator 7:	38% gap	
Indicator 8:	33% gap	

Performance expected without the LPSA

Indicator 1:	90.6% (September 2008)
Indicator 2:	55%
Indicator 3:	54%
Indicator 4:	77%
Indicator 5:	20%
Indicator 6:	39%
Indicator 7:	38%
Indicator 8:	33%

Performance target with the Local PSA

Indicator 1:	92.6%
Indicator 2:	60%
Indicator 3:	60%

Indicator 4: 81.5%
Indicator 5: 15%
Indicator 6: 31%
Indicator 7: 30%
Indicator 8: 27%

Enhancement in performance with the Local PSA

Indicator 1: 2%
Indicator 2: 5%
Indicator 3: 6%
Indicator 4: 3%
Indicator 5: 5%
Indicator 6: 8%
Indicator 7: 8%
Indicator 8: 6%

Outcome 12 To increase the number of local residents currently on incapacity benefit moving in to work or self-employment during the period April 2006 – March 2009.

Indicator by which performance will be measured

The number of people who have been claiming an incapacity benefit* helped by Halton Borough Council into sustained employment of at least 16 hours per week for 13 consecutive weeks or more, as measured by Halton Borough Council performance data

*** Incapacity Benefit (IB), Severe Disablement Allowance (SDA (TP)), Income Support (IS) on the basis of incapacity and those awarded National Insurance Credits (NICS) on the basis of incapacity.**

Current performance (year ending 31 March 2006)

18

Performance at the end of the period of the Local PSA (three year cumulative for year ending 31 March 2009)

Performance expected without the Local PSA

54

Performance target with the Local PSA

179

Enhancement in performance with the Local PSA

125