

## **Agenda Item 5**

**REPORT TO:** Local Strategic Partnership

**DATE:** 18 January 2006

**SUBJECT:** LPSA 2

### **1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 To provide an update on the development of the LPSA 2

### **2.0 RECOMMENDATION**

2.1 It is recommended that the Board agree the approach set out in the report and that all necessary steps are taken to conclude the LPSA agreement with ODPM by the end of February

### **3.0 BACKGROUND**

3.1 The Council and its partners have submitted its suggested priority areas and views on possible indicators to measure performance to the ODPM.

3.2 Formal comments were received from the ODPM, which raised a number of issues. The main issue around priorities was the focus on Key Stage 2 rather than Key Stage 3 or 4 and that some indicators were not sufficiently outcome focussed. The Council has responded to these issues and has agreed to switch the focus of its educational target to Key Stage 4 and revised some of its initial indicators.

### **4.0 CURRENT POSITION**

4.1 There has been a considerable delay in the ODPM responding to the Council's last response. This is mainly due to the fact that negotiations with authorities in earlier batches were taking longer than expected. ODPM advised that they were concentrating on those authorities in the early batches with a view to completing those agreements first.

4.2 The ODPM has now confirmed that the Government is content to move on to the next stage of negotiations and Halton's response to the Government's formal feedback means that we have agreed the main priorities for improvement.

4.3 To move things forward at Stage 2 and 3 (negotiating the indicators at stretch performance) the ODPM has asked the Council to prepare a draft agreement.

4.4 Attached is a template, which lists the twelve improvement targets and the suggested indicators together with comments, previously made by the Council and the ODPM.

## 5.0 NEXT STEPS

5.1 In order to prepare a draft agreement the Council and partners need to:

- i. firm up on the indicators by which it wishes to measure performance;
- ii. provide a baseline position for each indicator;
- iii. give a view of where it anticipates its performance will be at the end of the three year period without the LPSA; and
- iv. give a view on the stretch performance with LPSA

5.2 In relation to the following targets, there seems to be a general agreement on the measures proposed.

**Target 1** – reduce the level of violent crime

**Target 2** – reduction in vehicle crime

**Target 5** – improve the response rate to drugs/substance misuse – may not need all six indicators

**Target 6** – improve the liveability of local neighbourhoods by making environmental improvements – may not need all four indicators

**Target 7** – improving health and well being

**Target 8** – avoidable hospital admissions and re-admissions

**Target 9** – improve educational attainment in Key Stage 4

**Target 10** – tackling under-achievement of adults through the acquisition of skills for life - may be an issue about measuring participation levels but Government seems to be shifting its view

**Target 11** – improved opportunities and levels of participation in the ETE Looked After Children may be an issue over indicator for the educational attainment)

In relation to Target 4, (tackling the problems of domestic violence by improving the response to the need of children & young people affected by domestic violence) the DfeS does not accept targets on reducing numbers on a child protection register. Should the focus be

switched to concentrate on domestic violence itself and if so, what would be the suggested indicators.

In relation to Target 3, (the reduction in re-offending) and Target 12, (reducing the number of local residents currently on some form of incapacity benefit/encouraging and promoting enterprise), further work is still needed to identify suitable indicators to measure performance.

5.3 Lead Officers have already been asked to look at the proposed targets and ODPM comments as a matter of some urgency. It is essential that all of the information set out in paragraph 5.1 is available soon if negotiations with ODPM are to proceed. An update will be provided to partners at the meeting.

## 6.0 **TIMETABLE**

6.1 The ODPM has recently written to the Chief Executive and whilst they recognise that negotiations have been slower than authorities would have liked and this has led to frustration, they remain committed to concluding all outstanding LPSAs at the earliest possible date.

6.2 The area of work will in the future be the responsibility of Government Offices as part of their wider LAA negotiation work. Consequently, the central teams in Government departments that have been negotiating LPSAs are being wound down and resources are being transferred to the Government Offices. The central teams will start winding down from January onwards and Government is seeking to conclude the LPSA agreements by January or February.

6.3 The Government has asked for a final “big push” to conclude all remaining LPSAs by January or February. Alternatively, the Council and partners, if preferred, could take the decision to defer and resume negotiations with the Government Office at a mutually convenient time in the future. However, it is proposed that every effort should be made to conclude the agreement with the ODPM.