



haringey strategic partnership

Meeting: Enterprise Board

Date: 5 March 2008

Subject: Update on Thirty-Five Local Area Agreement Indicators

Purpose

This paper provides an update on the negotiations currently taking place with the Government Office for London (GoL) about the 35 performance indicators that will form the basis of Haringey's Local Area Agreement from June 2008.

Background

Reforms to the local government performance framework were announced in the White Paper, Strong and Prosperous Communities, published in October 2006. This new performance framework is based on 198 national improvement indicators, from which all local areas will pick 35, through their LAA, forming the basis of a new contract between the local area and central Government.

The draft list of 198 indicators was published in November 2007 and was consulted on until 21 December 2007; the consultation was only based on the technical aspects of the indicators and not the question of whether or not they should be included in the list of 198. The Haringey Strategic Partnership (HSP) responded to this consultation and a contribution to this response was made on behalf of the Enterprise Board. The final handbook of definitions for the national indicators will be published in February 2008.

The current Haringey LAA stretch targets will remain the same and will be rolled into the new LAA from June 2008.

Haringey's Thirty-Five Improvement Indicators

Negotiations between the HSP (through the Performance Management Group (PMG)) and GoL about Haringey's 35 indicators have been ongoing since September 2007. Following the publication of the draft list of 198 indicators, Haringey's 35 proposed indicators have been refined with business cases for each of them being drawn up. The current proposals include 4 improvement indicators that the Enterprise Board will take the lead on:

1. Working age people claiming out of work benefits in the worst performing neighbourhoods (national indicator 153).
2. 16 to 18 year olds who are not in education, employment or training – (national indicator 117).
3. Achievement of level 2 qualifications by aged 19 (national indicator 79).
4. VAT registration rate (national indicator 171).

A summary of the feedback received from GoL on these proposed indicators is provided below:

Enterprise	Feedback from GOL
NI 153 Working age people claiming out of work benefits in the worst performing neighbourhoods	NI 153 No concerns with this indicator.
NI 117 16 to 18 year olds who are not in education, training or employment (NEET)	NI 117 No concerns with this indicator. Current stretch will remain in 35 as passports well
NI 79 Achievement of level 2 qualifications by aged 19	NI 79 No concerns with this indicator. Current stretch will remain in 35 as passports well
NI 171 VAT registration rate	NI 171 No concerns with this indicator.

GoL also proposed that consideration should be given to including the following indicators:

Changes in Housing Benefit/Council Tax Benefit entitlements within the year (national indicator 180)

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) was pushing for the inclusion of this indicator as it is estimated that around £11m is potentially lost in Haringey on Housing Benefit/Council Tax Benefit payments through fraud and error. Haringey is one of 7 London boroughs the DWP has identified as being poor performers in this regard. Following further negotiations with GoL the request for the inclusion of this indicator has been dropped.

Working age population qualified to at least level 2 or higher (national indicator 163)

It is still unclear whether this indicator will be measured at local authority level and even if it is, the nature of the indicator’s data source (Annual Population Survey) means that it could be a challenge to appropriately attribute interventions to changes in performance. The current thinking is to include a set of adult skills indicators as local indicators; these include:

- Adults achieving a Skills for Life qualification and entered employment
- Adults achieving a Skills for Life qualification at entry Level 3 or above in the workplace
- Adults achieving a full level two qualification and entered employed
- Adults achieving a full first level two qualification in the workplace

Proportion of children living in poverty (national indicator 116)

There is a strong push from GoL and other Government departments for Haringey to include this indicator as Haringey is ranked as the 348th worst out of 354 English local authorities.

This indicator is based on the proportion of children living in a household where at least one of the following benefits is drawn down: Job Seekers Allowance, Incapacity Benefit, Income Support and Pension Credit. The official measurement of child poverty is based on the proportion of children living in a household with an equal (taking into account household size and composition) income below 60 per cent of the national median. As these data are not yet available for local authorities the benefits measure will be used in the interim. However, as the data for the interim measure is not yet available it is difficult to determine exactly why Haringey's performance is so poor.

If this indicator is included, it is likely that the lead theme board will be the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership Board (CYPSPB). However, because of the obvious links between child poverty and Worklessness, the Enterprise Board will need to take a view on whether it is appropriate to include this indicator in Haringey's set of 35.

4. Other issues

NEETs and level 2 attainment by aged 19

The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership Board has expressed concern that the Enterprise Board is currently the lead theme board for the following indicators: 16 to 18 year olds who are NEET; and achievement of level 2 qualifications by aged 19. The Enterprise Board needs to consider whether the lead responsibility for these indicators should be transferred to the CYPSPB. If agreed, the Enterprise Board would retain an interest in these indicators and receive regular progress reports.

Story of place

The story of place, which will underpin the priorities in Haringey's new LAA, has been drafted and submitted to GoL. The story of place is currently being redrafted, steered by PMG, to take into account the comments from GoL and will be presented to Full Council on 31 March.

Working Tax Credit

A possible local indicator based on the take up of Working Tax Credit (WTC) is being developed. The current thinking is that this indicator will be based on the number of eligible people supported into employment taking up WTC rather than increasing the global take up figures.