



**Nottinghamshire
Partnership**
All Together Better

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NOTTINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT BRIEFING

MARCH 2007

Welcome to the March briefing on the Nottinghamshire LAA. The briefing is designed to update you on the progress and latest activities around the LAA and keep you informed about forthcoming meetings.

If you have any queries around anything contained in the briefing contact Eve Dewsnap or Mark Williams on (0115) 9774208/9772825 or via email at: eve.dewsnap@nottscc.gov.uk or mark.williams@nottscc.gov.uk

The Refreshed Local Area Agreement

The Government Office for the East Midlands produced a report for the Communities and Local Government department on the first 6 months of the Nottinghamshire LAA from April-October 2006. Our overall progress and direction of travel were rated as 'amber'. This means that although GOEM have recognised that we have made progress in the first 6 months of the agreement there is still a number of key issues needing resolution before we can be rated as 'green' and on track for successful delivery of the LAA. The key areas for concern are:

- Missing data, e.g. baselines not set, targets and milestones missing
- Lack of clear leadership for all four blocks and subsequent lack of progress since sign off
- Risks to achievement of key outcomes.

We are currently completing the first annual 'refresh' of the LAA, which will allow us to fill the gaps in data. We have also been required to add a number of mandatory national targets across the 4 blocks. Block Partnerships are being strengthened by way of clear leadership, engagement, action planning and data provision to ensure they are robust enough to achieve the desired outcomes and targets. If you want to check who the partners are for each block, or who from your organisation attends, they are all now listed on the Nottinghamshire Partnership website, go to www.nottinghamshirepartnership.org.uk.

The Future Development of LAAs

The Government has just published its guidance about how LAAs will be developed over the next year in light of the intentions set out in the Local Government White Paper. LAAs will be a central part of the Government's approach to local areas and will continue beyond the initial three year time horizon for the agreement. While partnerships will only work when partners are committed to work together, the legal

underpinning of the duty to co-operate demonstrates government commitment and it is hoped will ensure that all organisations recognise the importance of working together with local partners.

The White paper has major implications for the way that performance management will operate in future both for local authorities and other partners. The government focus in future will be on the performance not of any one organisation but of the area as a whole. The partnership will need to develop mechanisms to work in this way and individual organisations will need to adapt their own managerial processes to respond to the shared priorities of the partnership.

The development of Nottinghamshire's LAA will need involvement at every level of the partnership. The timetable for this process will be very challenging as the new LAA will need to be agreed and signed off with government by April 2008. We will keep partners informed through all the meetings that take place throughout the county and through these regular monthly briefings and the website.

LAA Expenditure

We are required to report our spending of the pooled grants to the Government Office every six months. The first 6 month review in September revealed expenditure was at 71%. This was well below the tolerated 95% level, which would result in the pooled grant being repaid to Government at the end of the financial year rather than carried forward for future expenditure. The LAA Management Group asked the block partnerships to look carefully at their forecasted spend for the remainder of the year and to ensure that any underspend was minimised. The 9 monthly position shows an improvement to 82% and current projections forecast year one expenditure to be at 97% which will enable any unspent funds to be carried forward rather than repaid.

Reward Grant Element

A final decision regarding the distribution of the reward grant for achievement of the stretch targets has yet to be made. The issue was discussed at the meeting of the Management Group on 23 January and it was agreed that a working group, chaired by Alan Mellor at Ashfield District Council, would draw up a proposal to bring to the Strategic Partnership Board. There is currently a proposal to split the potential reward grant of £20m as follows:

10% to be divided equally to all signatory partners to the agreement

65% paid specifically to partners contributing to each target. Paid proportionately to contribution defined in the target delivery plan.

25% retained by the partnership to be spent on future priorities.

However, at the Management Group meeting it was agreed that identifying the contribution of individual partners would be very complex, and there was some renewed support for considering investing the reward grant in future partnership activities. The working group will consider all of these options.

Performance Management

Since the autumn of 2006 Nottinghamshire County Council has had an operational performance management system called PRISM. LAA partners can input their performance data directly via a secure web link. PRISM produces interactive reports which show actual performance against targets across each of the partnership blocks. The performance reports called briefing books can be accessed via the partnership website, go to www.nottinghamshirepartnership.gov.uk.

NCC have appointed a dedicated officer, Jackie Pinkett, to manage LAA data collection issues and act as a single point of contact for partners relating to performance data collection and processing. She can be contacted on (0115) 9772225 or via e-mail at jackie.pinkett@nottscc.gov.uk

Dates of Forthcoming Meetings

Healthier Communities and Older People Block Partnership Meeting	Monday, 19 March 10.00-12.30	Robin Hood Suite, Nottingham Forest Football Ground
LAA Management Group	Tuesday 20 March 1.30 - 3.30.	Making IT Discovery Centre, Mansfield
Green Flag Meeting	Wednesday, 21 March 10.00-12.00	Civic Centre, Arnot Hill Park, Gedling
Community Safety Board	Friday, 30 March 2.00-4.00	Council Chamber, County Hall, West Bridgford

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