

# Partnership Update for Northumberland

March  
2008

## *LAA Outcomes Special (3)*

Welcome to this special partnership *Update*, which outlines the latest position with regard to the emerging indicators being considered for inclusion in the new Local Area Agreement (LAA) for Northumberland.

### The new LAA for Northumberland

#### *Background*

As reported in the last *Update*, considerable work has been undertaken by the NSP thematic partnerships to translate the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) for Northumberland into targeted action plans and programmes.

This work has focused on addressing issues that:

- have a cross-cutting impact upon the 28 objectives of the SCS;
- require joined-up, effective partnership intervention to address them;
- matter to local people;
- represent areas of current poor performance;
- reduce inequality or deprivation – particularly in improving the lives of our most vulnerable communities (children and young people; older people; people on no or low incomes; and people who are discriminated against); and
- enhance the sense and quality of place, recognising that it differs across the county.

As part of this, Sector Action Plans relating to Business, Enterprise & Skills; Culture & Tourism; Environment & Energy; and Health, Care & Well Being as generated by the existing NSP Sector Boards have been produced. These represent “living” documents that will be kept under continual review and revisited on a six monthly basis. They can be accessed at: <http://www.nsp.org.uk/page.asp?id=414>.

From this action planning, a number of broad priorities emerged as outlined below.

Northumberland's emerging priorities 2008-11	
Educational attainment and childcare	Sexual health
Worklessness and income deprivation	Mental health
Business growth	Independent living
Anti-social behaviour	Accessibility
Domestic violence and bullying	Pathways to Services
Road safety	Climate change
Affordable housing	Environmental quality
Healthy eating	Tourism
Physical exercise	Cultural participation
Alcohol misuse	Volunteering
Smoking cessation	Community empowerment

### *Establishing the priority framework*

These priorities were subsequently translated against the new national indicator set and the existing Northumberland LAA target framework.

The Government introduced, as part of the Comprehensive Spending Review, a new national indicator set designed to measure progress on its national priorities. This list radically reduces the priorities and indicators to be measured locally and represents the only indicators against which local authorities' performance, alone or in partnership, will be reported to Government.

Each county or unitary based Local Strategic Partnership is therefore charged with selecting up to 35 designated indicators that reflect local priorities for improvement and translating these into challenging three-year targets. These will complement sixteen statutory educational attainment and early years targets and any additional targets agreed locally to form the area's LAA. Local targets will not be performance managed by Government but should not be seen as "second tier" targets – the same statutory duty for partners to have regard to them applies and they ensure the local dimension and context is fully reflected in LAAs.

On this basis, a list of prospective indicators for inclusion in the revised LAA for 2008-11 was derived (this was circulated with the last *Update*). This list was colour coded to reflect the relative strength/likelihood of the indicators forming part of the designated 35 targets that are reported to Government.

Since then, the NSP Board, as advised by the LAA Coordination and Implementation Group, has validated the selection of the designated, non-designated and local indicators to be included in the new LAA for Northumberland. This revised list is attached, together with a breakdown of the selected indicators by Sustainable Community Strategy theme.

The composition of this revised list has been influenced by the following:

- An appraisal by the lead theme partnerships as to whether the national indicator properly reflects the issues and/or challenges to be addressed in Northumberland.
- An independent assessment by Government Office for the North East (GONE) as to the regional and national understanding of the priority issues to be addressed in Northumberland
- An analysis by the LAA Coordination and Implementation Group as to the envisaged delivery impacts and risks of each prospective indicator to drive and realise tangible benefits for our most "vulnerable" communities.

A summary of the rationale for the changes made to the list is also attached.

Over the coming weeks, the work of the lead thematic partnerships will increasingly focus on the development and negotiation (with GONE) of three-year targets built around robust baselines and trajectories.

### *Story of place*

The final component of the new look LAAs is the "story of place". This represents an articulation of the shared evidence base for the content of the LAA to ensure buy-in from all partners, regional and national to proposed priorities. It explains the connection between issues locally so that everyone can understand cause and effect, and the impact that tackling a particular issue has on other things. It also gives a good opportunity to link social priorities to any economic or environmental determinants, or vice versa.

As part of the feedback on our initial list of indicators, GONE indicated that it would be helpful if the Northumberland story of place included reference to:

- Governance and the duty to consult
- Priority rationale and evidence base
- Differentiated targets and focus on “narrowing the gap”
- Community cohesion, equality and diversity
- Links to city region
- Rural proofing
- VCS and business sector involvement

#### *Draft LAA*

Pulling together these various strands, the LAA Coordination and Implementation has produced an initial working draft of the new LAA. It still has a number of gaps both in the narrative story of place and in setting the targets but it provides a framework for further discussion and negotiation – particularly with GONE. This initial document can be accessed at: [www.northumberlandtogether.org.uk](http://www.northumberlandtogether.org.uk). Further iterations will be posted at this location as they are produced and the content evolves.

#### *Next steps*

The key next steps are as follows:

- Finalised LAA story of place and priority framework to be in place by Friday 4 April 2008
- NSP Board to endorse the new LAA for submission to GONE by the accountable body on Thursday 24 April 2008
- New Northumberland Council (as accountable body for the LAA) to approve the submission of the new LAA to GONE on Wednesday 21 May 2008
- Government approve the new LAA for Northumberland in early June

## **Contacts**

### **Community Strategy Review**

Janice Rose, Head of Strategy  
NSP, 9 Telford Court, Morpeth, NE61 2DB  
Tel. (01670) 500630      Email: [jarose@nsp.org.uk](mailto:jarose@nsp.org.uk)

### **LAA Performance Management**

Clair Elliott, LAA Manager  
Northumberland County Council, County Hall, Morpeth, NE61 2EF  
Tel. (01670) 533908      Email: [celliott@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:celliott@northumberland.gov.uk)

### **LAA Financial Management**

Heather Smith, Head of Programmes  
NSP, 9 Telford Court, Morpeth, NE61 2DB  
Tel. (01670) 500630      Email: [hesmith@nsp.org.uk](mailto:hesmith@nsp.org.uk)

### **Partnership Development**

Helyn Douglas, Partnership Support Officer  
NSP, 9 Telford Court, Morpeth, NE61 2DB  
Tel. (01670) 500638      Email: [hdouglas@nsp.org.uk](mailto:hdouglas@nsp.org.uk)

## Local Area Agreement for Northumberland 2008-11 Proposed Indicators

<b>Designated Indicators (35)</b>	
NI 4	Percentage of people who feel they can influence decisions in their locality
NI 6	Participation in regular volunteering
NI 7	Environment for a thriving third sector
NI 8	Adult participation in sport and active recreation
NI 11	Engagement in the arts
NI 17	Perceptions of anti social behaviour
NI 19	Rate of proven re-offending by young offenders
NI 30	Re-offending rate of priority and prolific offenders
NI 32	Repeat incidents of domestic violence
NI 39	Alcohol harm related hospital admission rates
NI 47	People killed or seriously injured on road traffic accidents
NI 53	Prevalence of breast feeding at 6-8 weeks from birth
NI 56	Obesity among primary school age children in Year 6
NI 57	Children and young people's participation in high quality PE and sport
NI 110	Young people's participation in positive activities
NI 112	Under 18 conception rate
NI 114	Rate of permanent exclusions from school
NI 115	Substance misuse by young people
NI 117	16-18 year olds who are not in education, training or employment (NEET)
NI 118	Take up of formal childcare by low-income working families
NI 120	All-age all cause mortality rate
NI 121	Mortality rate from all circulatory diseases at ages under 75
NI 123	Stopping Smoking
NI 130	Social care clients receiving Self Directed Support (Direct Payments and Individual Budgets)
NI 135	Carers receiving needs assessment or review and a specific carer's service, or advice and information
NI 136	People supported to live independently through social services (all ages)
NI 153	Working age people on out of work benefits in the worst neighbourhoods
NI 155	Number of affordable homes delivered (gross)
NI 163	Working age population qualified to at least level 2 or higher
NI 171	New business registration rate
NI 175	Access to services and facilities by public transport, walking and cycling

NI 176	Working age people with access to employment by public transport (and other specified modes)
NI 187	Tackling fuel poverty – people receiving income based benefits living in homes with a low energy efficiency rating
NI 188	Planning to adapt to climate change
NI 192	Household waste recycled and composted

<b>Non-Designated Indicators (26)</b>	
NI 2	Percentage of people who feel they belong to their neighbourhood
NI 3	Civic participation in the local area
NI 5	Overall/general satisfaction with local area
NI 6a	Older people participation in regular volunteering
NI 8a	Older people participation in sport and active recreation
NI 9	Use of public libraries
NI 17a	Perceptions of anti social behaviour by older people
NI 20	Assault with injury crime rate
NI 40	Drug users in effective treatment
NI 51	Effectiveness of child and adolescent mental health services
NI 63	Stability of placements of looked after children: length of placement
NI 79	Achievement of a Level 2 qualification by the age of 19
NI 104	Special Education Needs (SEN)/non-SEN gap – achieving Key Stage 2 English and Maths threshold
NI 147	Care leavers in suitable accommodation
NI 151	Overall employment rate
NI 151a	Overall employment rate of older people
NI 154	Net additional homes provided
NI 159	Supply of ready to develop housing sites
NI 161	Learners achieving a Level 1 qualification in literacy
NI 162	Learners achieving an Entry Level 3 qualification in numeracy
NI 169	Non-principal roads where maintenance should be considered
NI 172	Percentage of small businesses in an area showing employment growth
NI 189	Flood and coastal erosion risk management
NI 193	Municipal waste land filled
NI 197	Improved local biodiversity – active management of local sites

<b>Local Indicators (8)</b>	
LOC	Self employment rate
LOC	Number of older people who take up benefits – pension credit
LOC	Percentage of sexually-active 15-25 year olds in Northumberland screened for Chlamydia
LOC	Number of new organisations attaining the Healthy People, Healthy Business award for the promotion of mental health at work
LOC	The average spend per tourist trip – UK visitors
LOC	The level of employment in the visitor economy
LOC	Number of listed buildings at risk
LOC	The percentage of the total length of rights of way that are easy to use by the general public

## Local Area Agreement for Northumberland 2008-11 Proposed Indicators by Community Strategy Theme

<b>We enjoy a good standard of living (14)</b>		
NI 117	16-18 year olds who are not in education, training or employment (NEET)	(1)
NI 118	Take up of formal childcare by low-income working families	(2)
NI 153	Working age people on out of work benefits in the worst neighbourhoods	(3)
NI 163	Working age population qualified to at least level 2 or higher	(4)
NI 171	New business registration rate	(5)
NI 79	Achievement of a Level 2 qualification by the age of 19	
NI 104	Special Education Needs (SEN)/non-SEN gap – achieving Key Stage 2 English and Maths threshold	
NI 151	Overall employment rate	
NI 151a	Overall employment rate of older people	
NI 161	Learners achieving a Level 1 qualification in literacy	
NI 162	Learners achieving an Entry Level 3 qualification in numeracy	
NI 172	Percentage of small businesses in an area showing employment growth	
LOC	Self employment rate	
LOC	Number of older people who take up benefits – pension credit	

<b>We live safely and in comfort (16)</b>		
NI 17	Perceptions of anti social behaviour	(6)
N1 19	Rate of proven re-offending by young offenders	(7)
NI 30	Re-offending rate of priority and prolific offenders	(8)
NI 32	Repeat incidents of domestic violence	(9)
NI 39	Alcohol harm related hospital admission rates	(10)
NI 47	People killed or seriously injured on road traffic accidents	(11)
NI 114	Rate of permanent exclusions from school	(12)
NI 115	Substance misuse by young people	(13)
NI 155	Number of affordable homes delivered (gross)	(14)
NI 187	Tackling fuel poverty – people receiving income based benefits living in homes with a low energy efficiency rating	(15)
NI 5	Overall/general satisfaction with local area	
NI 17a	Perceptions of anti social behaviour by older people	
NI 20	Assault with injury crime rate	
NI 40	Drug users in effective treatment	
NI 154	Net additional homes provided	

NI 159	Supply of ready to develop housing sites
--------	--

<b>We lead healthier lifestyles (17)</b>	
NI 8	Adult participation in sport and active recreation (16)
NI 53	Prevalence of breast feeding at 6-8 weeks from birth (17)
NI 56	Obesity among primary school age children in Year 6 (18)
NI 112	Under 18 conception rate (19)
NI 120	All-age all cause mortality rate (20)
NI 121	Mortality rate from all circulatory diseases at ages under 75 (21)
NI 123	Stopping Smoking (22)
NI 130	Social care clients receiving Self Directed Support (Direct Payments and Individual Budgets) (23)
NI 135	Carers receiving needs assessment or review and a specific carer's service, or advice and information (24)
NI 136	People supported to live independently through social services (all ages) (25)
NI 8a	Older people participation in sport and active recreation
NI 51	Effectiveness of child and adolescent mental health services
NI 63	Stability of placements of looked after children: length of placement
NI 147	Care leavers in suitable accommodation
LOC	Percentage of sexually-active 15-25 year olds in Northumberland screened for Chlamydia
LOC	Number of new organisations attaining the Healthy People, Healthy Business award for the promotion of mental health at work
LOC	Number of older people suffering a hip fracture

<b>We can readily access the things we need (3)</b>	
NI 175	Access to services and facilities by public transport, walking and cycling (26)
NI 176	Working age people with access to employment by public transport (and other specified modes) (27)
NI 169	Non-principal roads where maintenance should be considered

<b>We take part in cultural activity (5)</b>	
NI 11	Engagement in the arts (28)
NI 57	Children and young people's participation in high quality PE and sport (29)
NI 9	Use of public libraries
LOC	The average spend per tourist trip – UK visitors
LOC	The level of employment in the visitor economy

<b>We care about our environment (7)</b>		
NI 188	Planning to adapt to climate change	(30)
NI 192	Household waste recycled and composted	(31)
NI 189	Flood and coastal erosion risk management	
NI 193	Municipal waste land filled	
NI 197	Improved local biodiversity – active management of local sites	
LOC	Number of listed buildings at risk	
LOC	The percentage of the total length of rights of way that are easy to use by the general public	

<b>We get involved and bring about change (7)</b>		
NI 4	Percentage of people who feel they can influence decisions in their locality	(32)
NI 6	Participation in regular volunteering	(33)
NI 7	Environment for a thriving third sector	(34)
NI 110	Young people's participation in positive activities	(35)
NI 2	Percentage of people who feel they belong to their neighbourhood	
NI 3	Civic participation in the local area	
NI 6a	Older people participation in regular volunteering	

## Local Area Agreement for Northumberland 2008-11 Proposed Indicators, Summary of Changes

<b>Getting to the designated 35</b>			
NI 17	Perceptions of anti social behaviour	Following discussions with Government Office, this indicator has replaced NI 21 (Dealing with local concerns about anti social behaviour and crime by the local authority and police) and NI 41 (Perceptions of drunk or rowdy behaviour) on the designated list as it provides a more comprehensive assessment as to the fear of crime and anti-social behaviour.	38
NI 30	Re-offending rate of priority and prolific offenders	This indicator has been added to the designated list following the recent publication of the Northumberland Community Safety Strategic Intelligence Assessment which highlighted persistent re-offending by the same few individuals as a strategic priority.	39
NI 63	Stability of placements of looked after children: length of placement	This indicator forms part of the non-designated element of the LAA following further consideration that NI 114 (Rate of permanent exclusions from school) represents the most appropriate indicator for assessing partnership performance in safeguarding children and young people.	38
NI 79	Achievement of a Level 2 qualification by the age of 19	This indicator forms part of the non-designated element of the LAA on the basis that the mandatory educational attainment indicators provide a significant mechanism for reporting performance on this issue to Government.	37
NI 114	Rate of permanent exclusions from school	This indicator has been added to the designated list as it is now considered the most appropriate one for assessing partnership performance in safeguarding children and young people.	38
NI 140	Fair treatment by local services	This indicator has been discarded from the LAA as it does not relate to equality and diversity as originally envisaged. A local indicator will be developed for subsequent inclusion in the LAA as part of the work to establish the new Council.	37
NI 151	Overall employment rate	This indicator forms part of the non-designated element of the LAA as it is now regarded as a barometer of overall economic performance to which the other included economic indicators contribute.	36

NI 189	Flood and coastal erosion risk management	This indicator forms part of the non-designated element of the LAA as it forms part of the Northumberland's response to adapting approach to climate change which is covered by the inclusion of NI 188 within the designated list.	35
--------	---	---	----

<b>Other changes</b>			
NI 14	Avoidable contact: the proportion of customer contact that is of low or no value to the customer	This indicator has been discarded from the LAA as its fit with the circumstances in Northumberland has been weakened through a radical Government alteration to its methodology. A local indicator will be developed for subsequent inclusion in the LAA as part of the work to establish the new Council.	
NI 69	Children who have experienced bullying	These indicators have been discarded from the LAA as it is now considered that safeguarding children and young people is sufficiently covered through the inclusion of other indicators.	
NI 70	Hospital admissions caused by unintentional and deliberate injuries to children and young people.		
NI 146	Adults with learning disabilities in employment	This indicator has been discarded from the LAA as it is considered that the most significant issues facing this vulnerable population is covered by the inclusion of other indicators.	
LOC	Number of new businesses starting through Business Link and surviving 12 months	This indicator will be retained within the LAA as a current stretch target for 2008/09. It will then be reintroduced to the LAA in 2009/10 following a fundamental review by Business Link North East as to its methodology.	
LOC	The number of businesses taking up broadband connectivity	This indicator has been discarded from the LAA pending the development of a robust and reliable methodology.	
LOC	Proportion of new buildings constructed that meet the BREAM standard	This indicator has been discarded from the LAA as the data is commercially confidential. An alternative local indicator relating to sustainable construction will be developed for subsequent inclusion in the LAA.	