

Herts Forward Core Group 20th May

CAA – Hertfordshire Self-assessment and timeframes

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Overview

The self-assessment provides some valuable messages and themes about Hertfordshire, its challenges and how they will be tackled. It is a very helpful stage in the CAA process, building on and updating the Background Notes with a collation of strategies and plans which underpin what Hertfordshire partners are delivering. It sets out the actions being taken to deliver against the challenges, which is key to informing the judgements around improvement prospects. It provides a solid base for refining further questions and areas of exploration.

CAA Timetable

Mid June – cross inspectorate round table sharing analysis and developing the emerging themes

Late June – share emerging themes with partners

Late June and July – Focus groups and meetings, theme based, to confirm issues, explore gaps and challenge messages

August/September - share key findings & flags with areas

How well do local priorities express community needs and aspirations?

- Strong base of plans and strategies, many joint
- Connections between plans
 - Basis for local priorities in the SCS
 - Q. How far are district level and county level plans integrated?
 - Q. How is the intelligence being used?
 - Q. How are Place Survey results being used?

How well are the outcomes and improvements needed being delivered?

- There is a focus on what is happening now, particularly in relation to LAA targets
- Impact for residents?
- What is it like to live in Hertfordshire?
 - The positives and the negatives, with the evidence.

What are the prospects for future improvements?

Commitment to

- improving partnerships,
 - partnership event
 - Bulletin
 - LSP network
- tackling the recession,
- protecting the most vulnerable,
- evolve joint intelligence
- reshape priorities
- manage partnership action plans
- partnership working being reviewed
- tackling performance management in partnerships (Q. DLSPs)

Thematic partnerships

Better Places to live

- Community need – access to affordable housing – major challenge
- Housing growth challenges

- NI154 (net additional homes) not on target
- 5,832 new affordable homes delivered 2001-08 (21.75%)
 - Q. is supply meeting demand?
 - Q. Implications for residents?
- Given that growth is behind target, SHMAs are late and the development of LDF is slow, Q. Fundamental question – will planned new housing meet local needs? Evidence? What is the strategy to meet need?
- Only 5281 non-decent homes within council stock
 - How does this compare?
 - 4586 units in Stevenage
- 55% reduction in homelessness acceptances from 02/03 to 07/08
- 693 households in temporary accommodation
- Watford recognition at Clean Britain Awards 08/09

- Initiatives to increase access to affordable accommodation
- Range of processes, systems and services to improve housing provision
- Joint LDFs to plan growth
- Major regeneration schemes in town centres
- New housing strategy for 2009
- Streetcare group

Future challenges – Q. plans to tackle them?

Children and Young People

CYPP 09/11, two key themes

- Safeguarding C&YP
- Narrowing the gap between vulnerable children and all children

- Q. What action is 'increasing the range of positive activities for young people'
- APA 2008 'good'

Being Healthy

- Q. impact of work on promoting healthy lifestyles? (evidence)
- Targeted work and CLA – Q. numbers?
- Met targets for weighing and measuring 85% of children. Q. findings? Impact?
- Teenage pregnancy rates, lower than national average and falling. Some areas 'remain comparatively high'. Q. which areas? What are the rates?

Staying safe

- APA 2008, 'significant strides'
- Performance data equals/exceeds comparators
- Q. how is the impact measured?
- Q. Because of the district CTPs structure, is district level performance monitored strategically?
- Q Does a vulnerable family/child in St Albans gets the same level of support as the vulnerable child in Stevenage? How do you know?

Enjoy and achieve

- APA 2008 'good with some outstanding areas'. 'Now outstanding overall' Q. basis for this?
- 80% schools are judged good or outstanding

- Some strategies judged innovative e.g. education improvement partnerships
- High educational attainment, and improving at each stage
 - Results in 2008 were particularly high at foundation stage and GCSE.
- Key stage 2 (KS2) to KS4 CVA has improved and is now above the statistical neighbour average.
- There has been a significant reduction in the number of schools below floor targets. In 2008, at KS2 only seven schools (2%) were below floor targets, down from 24 schools (7% - lower than the statistical neighbour average of 7.2%) in 2007. At GCSE, five schools (7%) were below floor targets in 2008, down from eight schools (11%) in 2007.
- The outcomes of school inspections compare favourably with statistical neighbours and the national picture, with a significantly higher proportion of outstanding schools and only three schools in categories (none entered during 2009/10).
- Inspections show the early years sector has improved rapidly.
- Behaviour and attendance is very good, absence figures are below national average and exclusions fell significantly.
- The provision for children out of school is now in the top quartile.
- Gap in educational attainment is being narrowed in many cases but not all. Q. need to explore
- Re CVA data. The 2 schools with high CVA also have good GCSE results. The 5 schools in the worst CVA also have poor results. 2 are below the floor target (5 GCSE at C or above and the three only just exceed this. Therefore, how is this information being used to target support to the bottom 5 and how well the top two are being encouraged to share what makes them good with other schools in the Area.
- Key stage 4 results vary across district council areas. Q. How does the partnership target its activities to improve standards?
- How well is the LSP "joining up" provision with other agencies to raise standards?

Positive Contribution

- Good involvement of YP in planning and assessing
- Youth offending rates are low and falling – Q. figures?
- YOT is high performing (level 5)
- Channel Mogo – youth portal

Economic Wellbeing

- NEETS is amongst lowest nationally, although risen recently
- Success in 14-19 strategy, enabling more people to stay in learning post 16

Prospects

- CAMHS strategy
- Draft childhood obesity strategy
- Partnership teenage pregnancy strategy
- Growth in provision of positive activities for YP (Q. detail), with funding for additional growth
- Vanguard of Diploma development, with 80% of schools ready for the programmes compared to 58% nationally. Q. Explore
- District CTPs links to DLSP, CYPP and LAA. Provides focus on the local and the countywide framework
- A Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Engage Action Plan has been developed to encourage greater involvement in HCTP from that sector. The action plan has received **national acclaim** for its multi-agency commitment and practical value. Q. Explore

Healthier Communities and Older people

Context

- Life expectancy in Hertfordshire is above the national average and people continue to live longer. 60% increase in over-75s by 2025 in East and North Herts
- The health of Hertfordshire residents is generally good but recognise need to address disparity in experience between different sectors of the community and to address areas where there are gaps in support. Q. what is happening? Q. how are the links between ageing population and health inequalities being made across the themes, e.g. to the wider determinants of health and increased dependence – housing, sport and leisure, culture, access to open spaces etc.
- In the action relating to N18 physical activity, the lead is the PCT – are sports and leisure people or NHS Trusts involved?
- Smoking is the greatest cause of premature death
- Many people inactive
- Large number of people with learning disabilities whose health and social needs are increasing

Delivery

- Multi-agency structure, with HCOP chaired by Dep Dir of Public Health, and representatives of HCC, PCTs, DCs and VCS
- JSNA, with joint JSNA coordinator being recruited
- Identified 30 worst SOAs and their health needs Q. link?
- Five LAA2 targets
- Health and Wellbeing Strategy and Plan Q. RoE? ZZ
- 7 district health partnerships although links to county-wide partnerships is 'an area for improvement. Q. what happening?

Local Priorities

- **H&WB** Plan 2009-11 – workshops, 140 people taking part from 40+ organisations to identify 8 priorities. When will all the resources to support the plan be finalised?
- Encompasses long and short term objectives of SSC. Q. check
- Ongoing engagement events and a joint engagement officer to work with wide range of people

Outcomes

- On track for 3 LAA1 targets
 - Intermediate care
 - YP accommodation
 - Direct payments
- Unlikely to achieve target of 4% increase physical activity for the 45+ (showing 1.5% increase)
- Q. progress against LAA2 targets?
- Q. Performance progress monitored by HCOP – where at?
- Q. JNSA highlights that the recording of people with diabetes/heart disease on GP disease registers is generally lower than expected and work is planned to address this – progress?

Improvement Prospects

- HCOP programme manager
- £10k for each LSP for health inequalities – Q. impact?
- 'need to identify resources from HCC and PCT that can help meet H&WB agenda'. Q. explore?
- 'Partnership commissioning resources need to be identified'. Q. Explore

- **NB** – this section is highlighting that; resources need to be identified, how DCs and ACS Service Solution teams can contribute needs to be considered. The H&WB plan is new. The future challenges including stronger partnership working for preventative services, consistent engagement with people and reducing health inequalities is evidence that these remain issues
- SA evidence - Increased capacity in smoking cessation team, reviewed carers strategy (has this been completed?), new model of intermediate care, expansion of physical activity initiatives – Q. have these come into place?
- Improvements to HCOP partnership and district partnerships post 4th March partnership workshop – progress?
- SA evidence – suggestion that the LAA1 target on increasing physical activity for people aged over 45 will not be met – why? Why are targets on physical activity, smoking, carers assessments and supporting vulnerable people to achieve independent living off track (although expected to deliver?) Q – is the performance management of HCOP targets robust?

Jobs, Prosperity and skills

Context

Prosperous county (Q. evidence?), knowledge based, diverse economy. Skilled workforce, well paid, well qualified (evidence?). Earnings above national averages. But – pockets of unemployment and residents with low formal qualifications. Impact of recession – Oct 08 – Jan 09 40.1% increase in claimant count (4070) Q. where, what sector etc?

Priorities

- In SSC and four LAA2 targets
- NB – priorities developed before recession so don't reflect current circumstances – developing new strategy Q. explore
- Have Herts Economic Task force. Range of initiatives and advice Q. what impact
- Developed a Recession Pledge – a framework for local activities
- NB – Herts economy was slowing in 2007, with little progress against RSS job targets. 2007 IMD showed all districts and county slipped in rankings
- NB – NEETS low in county but higher in Welwyn and Stevenage

Outcomes

- 2 of 3 LAA1 targets 'green'
- Egs of achievements – Q. explore how these figures compare and what movement
- Have reduced NEETS in Stevenage closer to Herts average
- NB – Stevenage Skills centre - £2.2 m vocational training facility
- Herts Prosperity has supported projects
 - Bio Park incubator space at Welwyn
 - Watford Health Campus
 - European Space Agency Alphasat Q. explore role of partners in these
- Two LAA2 targets affected by recession – renegotiating with GO
- Achieving two targets regarding proportion of people qualified.
- Range of recession responses NB need to capture and analyse
- Based on GVA stats, growth has been relatively slow from 2001-07.

Improvement Prospects

- Economy more mixed and diverse than previously
 - Eg Hatfield Business Park home to 40 companies, high quality infrastructure, new University campus
- Stronger partnership working
 - Partners pooled resources and agreed Board leads for five topic groups
- Q – progress against RSS targets?

Safer and Stronger Communities

Context

Herts is a safe place – low crime rates but with disproportionately high perceptions of crime, ASB and substance misuse (according to 0809 Place survey)

Strong VCS – complex and diverse

SSC partnership – robust governance arrangements. Q – How robust are performance management arrangements?

CDRPs producing annual strategic assessments of crime and disorder – what has been the outcome and what has been the impact upon the LAA and other strategic priorities?

Priorities

Developing a Community Cohesion Strategy – Q. impact as Watford has received PREVENT funding – progress is amber red rated?

SSC theme has 7 improvement indicators in LAA2. Q – These are going to produce qualitative outcomes – how are you measuring improvement?

NI17 perceptions of ASB, show improvements– NB – need to explore detail

Q. not sure how far local priorities reflect community needs

Q Any connections between the economic context and burglary, in terms of priorities?

Outcomes

- LAA1 - Need figures/data – how good are PM arrangements are only on track to get 80% of reward grant?
- LAA2 – Update on progress and actions in relation to LAA2 targets, but not clear what the outcomes/impacts are in these areas – need to explore
- Choices and consequences project – Q impacts?
- NI17 ASB – Q figures and details?
 - Night time economy plans – impacts?
- NI132 – impacts?
- NI 140 – impacts/outturn figures?
- NI1 – any analysis of current performance?
- NI4 – this is more about improvement prospects, not outcomes in this area.
- NI6 – participation in volunteering. Getting better but target missed – what was the target, why was it missed and how are they looking to improve?
- Environment for a thriving 3rd sector – it is for the partners to measure progress? Crucial information about how VCS support will be improved and how it will be measured is omitted.

Generally, a lack of outcomes/data which demonstrates that Herts is a safe place which is getting safer. This section focuses on processes and actions without demonstrating what has been achieved.

Prospects

Positive principles for future working, ie disaggregating down to districts etc but little track record to base this on.

The potential of harnessing the considerable contribution of the voluntary sector continues through this section. The information is suggesting an increasing reliance on the voluntary sector. Q. Is this intended and is it realistic?

This section of the SA closes with a list of challenges. These appear to summarise some of the issues/activities identified in the SA. Partners are to be congratulated for candidly reporting the significant challenges they face but, as presented, the SA provides limited evidence about the LSP's ability to resolve them.

Overview

This section would benefit from having a much stronger emphasis on outcomes and explaining:

- how and why priorities have been chosen;
- how priorities have been reviewed and adjusted in the light of annual reviews and strategic assessments (annual community safety strategic assessments are a statutory requirement and will be very valuable documents);
- providing baseline, outturn and comparative trend information to support claims for progress;
- identifying the results (and consequent actions) of any evaluations of the identified initiatives (missing the SAC target could be an example); and
- providing information about the maturity of future plans including those for strengthening governance and performance management at a countywide level.

The SA is silent on matters such as resilience and CONTEST (the prevention of terrorism agenda – note Watford has received PREVENT grant funding). If these are regarded as risks then further information should be sought.

Transport, Access and sustainable development

This theme joins four previous thematic partnerships:

- Herts Infrastructure Planning
- Herts Waste Partnership
- Climate change partnership
- Transport and access partnership
 - Q why join them into one theme?

Herts Waste Partnership

- Improving recycling
- Reducing the amount going to landfill
- Q – Progress on the PFI bid for waste treatment facilities?

Transport and Access Partnership

- Not clear what the community needs are? Eg congestion in Watford?
- Q. congestion indicator? – is this a priority?

Outcomes

- Continuing reduction in road casualties
- Reduction in roads requiring maintenance
- Increasing in proportion of schoolchildren travelling to school by sustainable means
- Growth in bus patronage
- NB – need figures
- Q – do these achievements address what matters most to residents?
- NI175 – explore
- Access to services – Q achievements?
- How are concerns about congestion being tackled?

Improvement Prospects

Based on plans and processes. Commitment to performance management – not established

Sustainable development

Highlights the challenges of being close to London, having demanding housing and jobs targets in desirable area to live.

Herts Infrastructure and Planning Partnership critical role in developing a pan-Herts approach to identifying the infrastructure needs for 2021

Climate Change Partnership

New partnership, wide membership.

Challenging targets, early progress but *need to explore in more detail*