

REPORT TO CABINET – FEBRUARY 4th 2010

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Comprehensive Area Assessment

The CAA process is now commencing again for the year 2010-2011. Continuing liaison with the Audit Commission has indicated a lighter touch approach this year with the commission seeking to gather information as much as possible from published sources. To this end, Sefton has assembled a Partnership Document Library to aid both internal and external performance management and at the same time, provide the relevant information to the AC.

This repository will contain up-to-date documents and data on all relevant priorities for the Partnership and for key agencies such as the Council, the PCT and the Fire and Police Services.

Organisational Assessment

The Organisational Assessment process is being co-ordinated jointly by the Finance and the P&P teams and an evidence database and a short summary self-assessment are in preparation to meet the deadline of 8th March submission for the Use of Resources Assessment. The managing performance deadline has not been finally set yet but is likely to be no earlier than May.

The Audit Commission has signalled it will be putting a greater focus on value for money in this next round of CAA.

Comprehensive Area Assessment - Workstreams

Responding to the Recession

The Recession Action Planning Group has been taken into the reporting structure of the Economic Development and Sustainability Thematic Group and is now being chaired by Mark Long. The CAA process identified this as a potential area of concern, red tagged in the last assessment, and it is likely there will be some type of focus on this issue in the CAA process this year.

The group is responsible for delivering on the action plan devised partly through the consultation events held by the partnerships. The action plan will be revised based on the up to date monitoring and the prediction that the recession will now start affecting unemployment, the timescale for this revision is by April 2010. The current action plan was reported on to the SBP Executive on the 18th January.

Older Peoples Strategy

Older People was identified as an issue in an early iteration of the CAA, the ACE Division co-ordinated the development of a strategy which will be signed off in the next couple of months. The Strategy will be owned by the Wellbeing Directorate.

Knowing and Understanding

Another red tag area in the CAA was knowing and understanding our communities, this particularly focused on inequalities between geographical communities. The ACE Division has been responsible for directing an action plan involving partners to improve the knowledge base of the Council. The Partnership Intelligence Group, ("Sefton

Understood”) meets regularly has developed an action plan, with clearly stated deadlines and responsible officers. This action plan will be developed by all members of the Group. In addition to the action plan, a data quality policy has been written for the group, and other underpinning documents including Terms of Reference, Roles and Responsibilities, Document Control Checklist and Stakeholder Questionnaire. The development of this work underpins the Performance Improvement (Intelligence) Workstream of the SBR.

Evidence Base

One of the early developments of the knowing and understanding area was the production of an evidence base which was then commissioned. The evidence base has been used to inform a number of streams of the governance review and will be used to inform the priorities of the refreshed sustainable community strategy. Again this work is crucial to the development of the Intelligence function for the Council and supports in particular, the development of area management.

Health Inequalities

Health Inequalities was raised as an initial rag tagged area, a number of local authority areas in the North West were red tagged for health inequalities. Sefton has engaged with MIEP and are investigating the existing networks that deliver on health inequalities, this has potentially been expanded to include all the Merseyside authorities. Sefton has been selected as a Scrutiny Development Area for Health Inequalities, following a bid by Overview and Scrutiny and NHS Sefton to the Centre for Public Scrutiny.

GOVERNANCE REVIEW

Governance Review – SBP Structure

The governance review of the SBP has been continuing to develop; it has been through a number of processes including discussions at governance review working group and the informal area committee meetings in November and December. A small review group of the SBP has discussed the proposed structure in detail and those proposals have been discussed at the SBP Board (2nd December) and the SBP Executive (18th January).

The Structure has been part of the discussion with elected members in the full Council briefing on the 14th January and will be the basis of the decision to be made at full Council on the 4th March, for implementation in the new municipal year.

The Structure and Membership reflects the principles and broad direction given by the governance review working group over the last twelve months.

Area Management

The governance review workstream regarding area management is strongly linked to the development of the new SBP structure, responding to elected members need to more actively influence partners to deliver on local priorities. This integrated approach has been strengthened recently through joint development of the model for the SBP and area management. The next discussions that will be taking place are with political groups around the enhanced powers of area committees in the new governance model, and what the partnerships may look like. The governance review working group continues to lead on this work.

Partnership mapping

The mapping of all partnerships the Council is currently involved with continues, and this work will link to the development of area based partnerships.

The next stage of development work is to review the governance arrangements of those partnerships where the Council is the accountable body, or where there is a significant SLA in place.

A database is being developed, which will be publicly available which will allow partnership information to be searched. It is anticipated this will come on line in the new municipal year.

Risk Register

The Risk Register for the jointly shared goals of the Local Area Agreement has been completed and has been entered into SPRINT for monitoring purposes. Any potential risks identified through the CAA have also been entered into the Risk Register, this exercise found that many of the risks through CAA were already in the Register which demonstrates effective use of the register. The Finance and Information Services Department are leading on the development of a new Risk Management Framework, which underpins the development of the new Performance Management Framework, referred to below.

Performance Management Framework

A new PMF is under development, and has been discussed by the working group, the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board, the Strategic Leadership Team and engagement with departments will commence shortly. The new framework provides how performance will be managed within Sefton, through clear accountabilities and reporting. The new PMF provides a foundation for the Performance Improvement Workstream of the SBR. It is a key deliverable under the governance review.

Other recent relevant developments include:

- SPRINT Enhancements version 3.1 was uploaded on the 18th January after testing.
- Data Quality - exception reports are produced quarterly using regional and national averages and Sefton's projected direction of travel, exception reporting allows departments to take remedial action if required.

Quarter 3 Corporate Performance/Escalation Policy

Quarter three monitoring has been completed and are currently being verified before quarter 3 reports are produced. Updates on the Corporate Plan, Departmental Service Plans and National Indicators have been completed.

Using Sefton's latest performance, officers have compared our performance with that published regionally and nationally to determine Sefton's direction of travel.

LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT

Review and Refresh

The LAA 2008-11 is currently going through a review and refresh, which is an annual process. Some of the economic targets will be renegotiated because of the impact of the recession. A meeting with GONW will take place on the 27th January.

Overview and Scrutiny

The first joint report of both Council and Partnership Performance will be presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board on the 23rd February (as outlined above). This will incorporate LAA performance and the intention is Overview and Scrutiny Management Board can use the information to inform work plans of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees and potentially identify partnership areas to become involved with.

Data Disaggregation

Officers Support Group continue to work on data disaggregation on the Local Area Agreement targets. The agreement is to disaggregate where possible on the basis of gender (males and females respective performance). Some information particularly from the Children's Trust has been received and the next step will be to look at all the disaggregated data and incorporate some reporting on that into Overview and Scrutiny Management Board performance report.

Commuications

As part of the SBR rationalisation of common functions, a Workstream on Communications is progressing well. The aim is to rationalise all communications, advertising, marketing, web etc activity across the Council.