

At a meeting of the Cumbria Joint Scrutiny Overview Group held in Allerdale House, Lonsdale Room on Tuesday 24 February 2009 at 10.30 am

Members

T Heslop (Chairman)

Y Clarkson	C Nineham
P Connolly	V Rees
D Dawes	S Simpson
N Hardy	M Smith
C Hogg	

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Callister, Farmer, Nicholson and Rutherford

Staff Present

A Gunston, C Johnston, J Murray, J Penfold, S Richards, D Taylor and N White

1 Notes of the meeting held of Tuesday 4 November 2008

The notes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 4 November 2008 were agreed.

2 Declaration of interests

4. Performance Monitoring of the Local Area Agreement.
Councillor Colin Nineham; Personal

3 Performance Monitoring of the Local Area Agreement

Duncan McQueen, Performance and Improvement Manager at Cumbria County Council, brought Members up-to-date on performance with respect to the stretch legacy targets (the targets which had been set in April 2007 and were now 21 months on) and the more recent Local Area Agreement targets which were in their first year of monitoring.

Of the stretch legacy targets, 11 out of 12 were on target, and set to bring £13.8m in reward grant (of a possible £15m) to be paid over two years from 2010-2012, and which would be reinvested in priorities.

Good performance was particularly demonstrated by three targets: SI02 measuring the % of 16 to 18 years olds who are not in education, which had exceeded targets, SI10 which measures the number of prolific and priority offenders who reoffended within 12 months; and waste and recycling targets where performance had been consistently good and consideration was being given to stretching targets further.

Three targets giving concern were fire-related death and injuries where it was touch and go whether the target was reached; smoking cessation in spite of various initiatives and media campaigns; and the main target causing concern was SI12 which measures the percentage of people who feel that they can influence the decision-making process. This continued to be a concern and an event was being held in March under the auspices of the Cumbria Improvement and Efficiency Partnership to make organisations aware of the issues which impact on all perception-based Performance Indicators in the new National Indicator Set.

In the course of discussion, Members questioned whether the information provided could be broken down for geographical areas in order to identify 'hotspots' where resources required to be targeted. It was acknowledged that this was one of the biggest challenges for performance monitoring and suggested that if there were particular areas that Members wanted to examine, efforts would be made to collate the information required.

Members queried the need for stretching targets further...if targets were stretched, met and reward achieved, would it not be better to concentrate resources on areas of underperformance. In response, the point was made that although performance in some areas had been good as measured by the stretch targets, it did not necessarily mean that performance was good when measured nationally.

With respect to fire deaths, it was concluded that the fire service were proactive, but that there may be some links, for example with District Councils, that were missing.

Of the LAA targets, under 1/3 were off target at 9 months, although a number of the targets were not being measured quarterly, as data was collated annually.

Good performance was again being seen in waste; in streetscene and in road safety and concern being expressed for smoking cessation; for increased choice in services and for reducing worklessness, the latter particularly in light of the economic downturn. Targets with respect for the Climate Change agenda would be a big challenge.

In light of the information received the following '**potential**' work items were

Agreed –

- 1) That partnership working for the prevention of fire-related deaths be reviewed to identify whether there are gaps in support partner organisations might offer.
- 2) That there might be policy development work to be carried out on the way in which stretch targets are determined and information collated.

4 **Joint Officer Post**

Cumbria County Council had now agreed funding for the two-year post, however there was some uncertainty about the funding position for Carlisle City Council. It was

Agreed – that each of the authorities approach their leadership to seek resolution at the next Cumbria Local Authorities and Strategic Board meeting.

(Action since: Funding now agreed).

5 **Reporting Structures**

Agreed – that the reporting structure outlined in the accompanying report be accepted subject to further government guidance and the following amendments:

- 1) Step 3 – send the report and response to the Lead Thematic Partnership or the Cumbria Strategic Partnership as appropriate;and
- 2) That the Cumbria Local Authorities and Strategic Board be included in the copy recipients.

6 **Terms of Reference**

Agreed – that the terms of reference for the Joint Committee be adopted subject to the following amendments:

- a) 1.4 With the inclusion of CALC, there would be 16 members of the committee.
- b) 2.1(b) Review and scrutinise delivery of the Local Area Agreement targets and the prospect for achieving expected outcomes.

7 **Outline Training Plan**

Members discussed the training proposal submitted. It was felt that the list of subjects was appropriate, but some Members felt that bite size chunks before a meeting would be preferred.

Cumbria County Council would be organising training for new Members and as previously, would be willing to open this out wider.

More generally, it was felt that it would be better to wait until after the elections to hold training, and it was felt that a bid to the Cumbria Improvement and Efficiency Partnership would be the best way forward.

Agreed – that officers should be delegated to organise as appropriate.

8 Councillor Call for Action

Members received and noted the joint form and guidance it was proposed to use in Cumbria. This was subject to final government guidance, which may well require some minor amendments.

Agreed – that Members were content for officers to make final adjustments, and that an accompanying ‘feedback’ form be developed for inclusion in the pack.

9 Date of the next meeting

Agreed - that the date of the next meeting should be in early July in Barrow, potentially 8th July.

10 Any other business

None raised.

The meeting closed at 1200h.