

CAA SELF ASSESSMENT WORKSHOP

Session 1

How well does the partnership understand local needs and aspirations and translate them into local priorities?

1. Does the partnership have a clear vision

- Do we duck difficult issues?
- Hard to get below Gloucestershire level (i.e. focus on the *really* critical problems within communities). Don't tackle hotspots – often at very local level. Why? Too many strategists making the decisions.
- Many good outcomes (crime ↓ road safety casualties ↓).
- SCS – broad aspirations – hides detailed problems within communities.
- Good to have clear branding and bold structures that appears on everything.
- Good level of agreement. Some generally accepted issues have been given added partnership impetus

What is working well:

- Good ownership; wide understanding.
- Benefit of the doubt *is* given.
- Governance gives everyone a clear and appropriate role.
- Processes work well.
- Target-setting and performance management works well.

What needs more attention

- Are we too nice to each other (e.g. economic partnership got off lightly?).
- Still working in silos.
- Evaluation of success. Do we do enough?
- Better focus on local/Hard to Reach group.
- Member engagement/sign up is patchy at best.
- Proper links between county-districts?
- 10-year targets.
- How do we stay current (especially in recession)?
- How do we tackle killer issues? Do we collectively do the right things to tackle say, child poverty? Are we narrowing the gap?

2. Are the Priorities informed by robust local intelligence & evidence?

- Good basic info but need more detail in some areas
- How do we compare with other areas in terms of need, supply (£) and demand

What is working well?

- Strong Intelligence
- Data Collection
- JSNA
Poverty Map
- Pupil on-line survey
- Understand the need for “local” data
- Building blocks are there

What needs more attention?

- Unitary would make it easier for info
- Good geographical data but not ‘communities of interest data’
- EIAS Conference
- Use & analysis of data & intelligence
- Officers/Commissioners asking for different info/things all the time – they need to know what’s needed
- Drawing the wealth of information together more systematically
- There are gaps on total energy, CO² & housing issues = joining up info in systematic place
- What do we want the Board to do for us? Need to report on quantitative & qualitative data upwards
- “Local” data needs better understanding & agreement
- Commercial data?
- Not working together across county – hard to reach communities e.g. geographic, interests
- Aggregation & analysis of individual needs to inform fruitful planning
- Lots of the figures we have on employment are out of date in a fast changing situation like the recession – we are working to improve our responsiveness to shifts in public attitude
- Are we really using the information that comes through on recession or are we just gathering it?

3. How has engagement with local people helped to shape the priorities

- The economic task force is an example of the partnership responding to a need that arose – has everyone bought in
- Place survey results show high satisfaction with what we are doing

What is working well?

- Local Development Framework statements of community involvement – most districts ran a dual process alongside the development of their Sustainable Community Strategy
- Citizen's Panel
- People's voice
- Flooding response – resilience
- Engagement with parish councils

What needs more attention?

- Evidence of engagement with hard to reach groups (single parents, young people, BME groups)
- Is engagement being used to change what we are doing or are we using it to reaffirm what we want to say

Session 2

Children & Young People

Improve educational attainment for children & young people, including vulnerable children & young people

Evidence of Achievements

- Narrower gap – Children Looked After
- KS2 performing as well as those not Looked After
- Education/Attainment – evidence of improvement
- Early Years – Foundation – good progress – narrower gap between free school – eligible
- Progress at all Key Stages
- Top 15% GCSE

Gaps in Performance

- Education/Attainment – high levels of exclusion
- Attainment profile varies around county, particularly Gloucester & FoD
- Progress of children eligible for free school meals – gap high
- Attainment of Black Caribbean & White Caribbean children
- Child Poverty – growing issue over the next few years

Vulnerable children & young people have improved life chances by maximising their own potential for safe, healthy, happy & successful lives.

Evidence of Achievements

- Achievements - Young Carers nationally recognised as excellent
- Improved CAMHS
- Reduced teenage pregnancy
- Schools dealing with bullying better
- Reduction in 1st time offenders

Gaps in Performance

- Better support for minor mental health problems
- Improving - feeling less safe on roads in spite of improved figures
- Teenage pregnancy hotspots
- Reducing obesity
- Checking of quality of Safeguard Services – GCC (not exclusive)
- Better response to Domestic Abuse
- Better stability for Looked After Children
- Emergency hospital admissions 0-5 unintentional injuries

14-19 year olds have improved choices & support suitable to their age group

Evidence of Achievements

- YEP Project – energy (?) work experience with local businesses
- 14-19 – one of the highest area in country in education & training
- Above one 'A' level & NVQ3 in county
- One of lowest areas in country for NEETS
- Volunteering?
- Play builder Schemes
- Play schemes – activities

Gaps in Performance

- Transition between Children Services & Adult Services – improving but needs to get better
- 16-19 vulnerable young people – narrow gap attainment
- Recession – NEETS
- Young people disabilities
- Care leavers
- Improve circulation choice
- More support with mental health issues

Economic Development & Enterprise

Evidence of achievements

- Some evidence of swift response to crises like recession (e.g. setting up Economic Task Force) and floods. **BUT** concern that the Glos Conference as a whole has not responded quickly enough – e.g. some people still out of their homes following the floods. CSEB members asked for *evidence* that the Glos Conference is good at responding to crises.
- GHURC and Gloucester Works
- Strong relationship with SWRDA (best in West) – reflected in £ received! (e.g. Rural Renaissance). **BUT** also a sense that RDA is frequently frustrated by our collective inability to ‘get our act together’ (e.g. Boots Corner – Cheltenham)
- Private sector relationship incredibly strong. Gives us knowledge/skills/credibility – Private sector “with us” not against us. **BUT** strong sense that private sector is not well-represented across the whole of the Glos Conference (only via Glos First), and some sense that private sector is often not supportive of partnership activity.
- Pre-recession employment record has been excellent over a long period.
- High performance in terms of skills and apprenticeships. **BUT** real split in opinion. Claims that we have the lowest apprenticeship record in the SW.
- Mature approach to handling weaknesses (e.g. ABG handling of the two off-target LAA aims – stick with them as they’re important to local people, even though we cannot hope to achieve our targets). **BUT** many people feel that we do not really tackle our weaknesses, but skirt round them
- Approved separate urban and rural economic strategies. **BUT** seen as a mixed blessing. Separate strategies have split the county. Important to recognise different approaches in urban/rural areas but these need to be linked via the Integrated economic strategy (– currently under review).
- Good intelligence about our economy-and use of this to plan how we address future challenges (NEETs) **BUT** (i) some data sets are old (e.g. data on VCS contribution to the economy is 2 years old); (ii) we don’t use intelligence to integrate economy to social care, health, education and social issues; (iii) we don’t use intelligence to identify and resolve social aspects of economic decisions

Gaps and plans for future delivery

- Gloucestershire First has struggled to relate to Gloucestershire conference.
- Communications across the whole Glos Conference on the economy is poor.
- Glos First website is poor.

- Lacks vision.
- Two LAA targets are “off target” – have to question whether Glos Conference understands its own intelligence as it set the wrong targets! (Is this historic?)
- Don't have money, political will or the tools to tackle rural economic issues.
- Risk of urban – rural split. Focus on urban.
- Need stronger lobby on behalf of rural economy.
- Lack real clarity about economic mission (partly owing to confusion between roles of Gloucestershire First and Gloucestershire Conference).
- Affordable homes – the Gloucestershire Conference hasn't responded to the scale of the problem.
 - Glos 1st and Business Link don't appear to liaise
 - Renewable issue – not being tackled across whole partnership.
 - Lack of ambition around investment in green economy.
 - Lack of ambition around Third Sector economy.
 - Equalities issues not being addressed.
 - CO2 not being tackled across whole partnership

Natural & Built Environment Theme

Evidence of Achievements

- Warm & Well scheme has continued to increase the number of homes insulated, reducing fuel poverty
- Adaptations carried out under the Disabled Facilities Grant scheme
- Waste and recycling on track to achieve targets of 40% countywide by 2010
- Good delivery plans in place for reducing CO2 (NI 186) and adapting to climate change (NI 188)
- Cheltenham low carbon partnership (is this something that could be rolled out across the county)
- Growth in number of eco-schools
- Increase in number of children walking to schools
- £800k zero carbon grant for Tewkesbury school
- Improvements in flooding resilience since 2007
- Rural capital of culture bid

Gaps and plans for future delivery

- How are we going to target solid wall properties that are off the gas network
- Political leadership needed – lack of understanding to make the in-roads needed – needs officers to help improve understanding
- Getting more done in the business sector to reduce CO2
- Transport – is there a gap in our understanding of infrastructure needs
- A gap between the themes in discussing how they can jointly deliver outcomes i.e. renewables and power generation (economic & environment themes)
- Climate change agenda needs to be broader and more central
- Link to Strategic Infrastructure Delivery Plan
- Huge gap in biodiversity – climate change isn't the only issue
- Needs to be seen as not a risk
- Environment still feels a bit disparate
- Need to get members from this group embedded into other themes
- Economic situation has pushed environment down the political agenda
- The term 'resilient' is attached to flooding and can be misleading when looking at wider environmental issues

Healthier Communities & Older People Theme

Evidence of Achievements

- Play/physical activity projects
- Sport England
- Pilates for elderly
- Prison health team
- Smoking cessation work – hitting targets for mental health & deprivation
- Stop-smoking shop
- Maintaining independence – keeping older people in their homes (how?)
- Reducing teenage pregnancy
- Family intervention project links
- Healthy schools
- Reduction in Teenage pregnancy
- Hit target for Chlamydia screening
- Success of warm & well scheme
- Reduced falls amongst over-75s and ‘turned the curve’
- POPPS project supporting very frail people in care homes
- Supporting People achievements
- Tewkesbury Healthy Towns - £1.4m
- Community Safety Advisors target older people to provide reassurance and care
- Village agents
- Community agents
- Preventative counselling for homeless individuals

Gaps and plans for future delivery

- Understanding and analysing the health impact of recession (see Coalfields Alliance, FoD)
- Multiple needs intervention
- Physical activity co-ordination
- Putting People First – too early to know if it will improve things
- Playbuilder – play strategy for the future (possible)
- Housing Foyer Schemes?
- How do we link between the themes
- Safeguarding vulnerable adults
- Supporting People – increasing problem and reducing funding
- How do we scale up and mainstream projects
- Supporting People not integrated with Health & Wellbeing Partnership
- Take up of benefits/benefits maximisation

Safer & Stronger Communities

Evidence of Achievements

- Countywide reduction in overall crime (25% reduction in Cheltenham & Tewkesbury over 2 years)
- Reduced the number of people killed and seriously injured on the county's roads
- Examples of how we are improving quality of life in our most deprived communities:
 - Opened a new community resource centre in Oakley, building on a successful model already developed in Hesters Way and Springbank
 - Planning a new academy in Springbank (opening 2011)
 - Regeneration of St Paul's ward
 - Neighbourhood partnerships in Barton & Tredworth
- Achieved a significant increase in the numbers of people volunteering in the county (up from 14% to 19%)
- Hitting targets for drug treatment and waiting times
- County Council achieved level 4 of Equalities Standard
- Community Leadership through flooding crisis (eg. Cllr Kathy Williams)
- Recognise the value of a thriving third sector – fully integrated into our partnership and LAA
- 18 Local Area Officers appointed to act as liaison between communities and County Council
- Director of Public Health reports provide a clear picture of local issues and health inequalities
- New equalities and diversity advisory group established within the Gloucestershire Assembly to advise the partnership
- Restructured our Safer & Stronger Partnership to bring "stronger" issues more to the fore
- Carbon watchers scheme
- Renewable energy work with community buildings
- Village agents scheme
- High levels of voluntary & community sector activity
- Parish planning
- Market Town initiative
- Gloucestershire Launchpad (<http://www.gloucestershirelaunchpad.ac.uk/>)
- Tewkesbury Health Towns
- Tewkesbury school – one of 18 in country to receive funding to pioneer zero carbon work through its Young Energy Scheme
- Sources of evidence:
 - GlosHub website
 - VCS Assembly & strategy groups

Gaps and plans for future delivery

- About to write substance misuse strategy
- Fear of crime doesn't reflect actual reduction in crime
- No overall LAA action plan for most deprived communities
- Improving quality of life in most deprived neighbourhoods
- Difficult to 'drill down' into needs of minority & disadvantaged communities, particularly in rural areas where these are dispersed
- Culture doesn't get a high focus in its own right
- Some partners still view the 3rd sector as peripheral
- Is there a real strategic vision for 'stronger'
- How aspirational are we for different groups, e.g. vulnerable adults
- A recent survey is showing that more young people are worried about road safety
- Rural disadvantage tends to get missed (e.g. high unemployment in Cinderford)
- The rural/urban issue, and the competition that gets played up between the two – is this Gloucestershire's community cohesion issue?
- Lack of an overall countywide approach to managing public perceptions (CSEB sub-group currently looking at this issue)