

Our Local Area Agreement 2008 - 2011



A focus on improvement

Content

Introduction	3
Our improvement priorities	4
Skills and worklessness	4
A better place to do business	4
Housing	5
Health inequalities	5
Children and young people's life chances	6
Be safe, feel safe	6
A strong community	7
Local Area Agreement indicators	8
Improvement priorities and LAA indicator links	16
Further Information	19

Introduction

As a Local Strategic Partnership we have many ambitious priorities as individual institutions and as a partnership. For the new LAA we are clear that we will concentrate on areas where further intervention is required to achieve better outcomes. We will not focus on priorities where work that is happening is already exemplary and/or by continued attention appears on track to be delivered, for example promoting greater independence for older people through individual budgets and control of care packages.

We recognize that sole or quick interventions do not guarantee success, and modernization that goes wider and deeper requires concerted joined up delivery with more attention to innovative solutions now that many baseline outputs have improved over the last decade. As we negotiate our LAA we want to simultaneously explore the support and innovation needed to develop beyond current best practice into areas of 'next practice'.

While many services and indicators are improving – indeed we are in the top third of London across the board – we must ensure that by raising pride and civic/neighbourhood capacity residents actively guide the intervention of public agencies so that we build communities and transform lives.

In summary the draft priority areas discussed below are built around our shared vision that we must invest in the community's economic capacity to develop into an area of less frequent dependency that can respond to the challenges of a global economy. Our litmus test is that over the next twenty years residents' average income will rise to the average for London (at present being £28k per annum compared to £38k per annum). Key to this are programmes to address that residents' adult vocational/skills base remains the least well developed of any authority in the country which underpins low income, economic deprivation and social exclusion.

Our improvement priorities

Skills and worklessness

Job creation over the next 20 years in London, the Thames Gateway and the South East will predominantly expect higher levels of adult skills. Local businesses repeatedly tell us that they experience difficulty attracting staff with appropriate customer service, sales and other business skills. There is also a considerable gap between the demand for construction related skills and the supply through local labour markets which means there is high unemployment in parts of the borough while jobs are sourced from external workforce markets.

In order to break the cycle of low skills, through capital and revenue funding from the local authority and Learning & Skills Council we wish to build a ground-breaking Skills Centre in Barking Town Centre for borough wide access for 14-19 years old children and young people. This centre will develop vocational study and skills routes into employment such as construction, sustainable industries, sales, customer services and retail industries.

Similarly, through partnership the Learning and Skills Council will commission an expansion over the next 2-3 years of FE provision in relation to borough residents at locations easily reached by public transport. Public sector employers and the voluntary sector will join the Council in taking the Skills Pledge and ensure that we invest in basic skills and upskilling.

Through targeted use of the Working Neighbourhoods Fund we will significantly increase the number of apprenticeships across a range of skills/roles, and focus job brokerage attention on client groups who are less economically active. It is essential that our partnership improves delivery systems to ensure that wrap-around support is provided to many groups by all partners so that training opportunities and placements are successful as we target specific neighbourhoods, households and individuals to overcome barriers to entering the labour market.

A better place to do business

Improving skills is of course only one half of the equation. We need to ensure that we have good quality jobs for local people to do.

Through LEGI we have launched Barking & Dagenham Enterprise as an arms length vehicle led by local business to build business opportunity and entrepreneurship. When completed our two new business centres (providing 60,000 sq ft of new business space), and specialist school in entrepreneurship, give a good foundation; but we recognise that additional revenue and capital capacity is required to improve our industrial, warehouse and retail areas so that the borough is a more attractive location for business. Over the course of the LAA therefore the Council will seek to increase resources/capacity to Barking & Dagenham Enterprise and/or other economic development contracts as a contribution to this partnership aspiration; as well as listen more to business and respond to their transport, environmental and other concerns about operating in our area; for example we have identified the priority of diverting resources over the next 2-3 years to tackling crimes against business.

A key requirement is that we increase the number of successful business start-ups and link this with our skills agenda so that new jobs created can be filled by local people with enhanced skills.

We also wish to participate in the programme of Local Employment Partnerships to enable employers to take on local people with additional support from Job Centre Plus.

Finally, although the demise of heavy industry has led to significant economic challenges for Barking & Dagenham it has also afforded the opportunity to build a more sustainable environment. We are setting very high standards for sustainability in all new developments, but particularly we wish to build on the successes to date such as Dagenham Dock and Voltaic by locating new sustainable industries south of the A13. Also, the extension of DLR to Barking Riverside and Dagenham Dock will ensure workforce mobility to the opportunities of the regional economy.

Housing

We will increase the supply of housing in equal measure across private, intermediate and social rented sectors by approximately 25,000 new homes; with a better supply of family housing across all tenures to make this a borough of economic choice. Our primary vehicle for new supply of affordable (intermediate and social rented) housing to deliver our Thames Gateway commitments will be a new Local Housing Company. In the coming months we wish to negotiate with government a means where this is the lynchpin to resolve several inter-linking housing issues.

There must not be cliff edge regeneration where new supply is of significantly better quality than existing social homes, and so the 20,000 homes managed by the Council need to be made decent to improve the economic wellbeing and health of residents. However, the strict definition of 'decent homes' is simply about the fabric of an asset and not more broadly about better places to live. We need high quality areas with concierge, security, playgrounds and community facilities that ameliorate the sense of alienation that exists in many pre and post-war estates. And so through the Local Housing Company arrangements we ask that the present substantial negative housing subsidy paid by the borough is translated into investment in social housing areas.

Of equal importance to housing supply are the issues of homelessness and temporary accommodation. Barking & Dagenham is undergoing the fastest changing demography in the country. Many former Council homes, sold under right to buy are coming back onto the market and being bought by young Londoners and their families who will make a real contribution to our community. However, increasingly many properties are also being bought by private sector landlords (for example as buy-to-lets), which is causing pressure on services and damages our aspirations to build sustainable communities.

Therefore, as well as providing investment capacity to raise the quality and aspiration of many estates, the freedom to opt out of the housing subsidy system will allow us to buy back properties from the market to deal with issues of homelessness and transience that are causing cohesion strains in our community. It will also create capacity to provide revenue funding for supported housing to high risk and vulnerable client groups, for example in relation to re-offending and safeguarding children.

Health inequalities

An active and healthy population, with less dependence on incapacity benefit, needs culture change to promote more active and healthy lifestyles. Our borough has high mortality rates and low life expectancy, for example men and women on average live seven fewer years than residents in Kensington and Chelsea.

We have a range of projects in place, especially in relation to reducing smoking, increasing physical activity, changing poor diet, and increasing childhood immunization. But we wish to focus more attention on breaking the cycle of children and young people not being as economically active as possible in future years. Our ambition therefore is that the Barking & Dagenham Partnership, for example via contributions from the health sector on a business case basis, will provide free healthy option school meals to all children in the first two years of schooling in order to establish healthier eating patterns and reduce childhood obesity. Moreover through partnership we are also seeking to provide free access for all children and young people aged 16 and under to the borough's leisure facilities in order to encourage access to sport/recreation for all in later life. Beyond this, we will introduce at least three subsidised healthy eating outlets to stimulate demand and to start to break the 'fast food, take away' culture prevalent amongst our shopping parades.

Children and young people's life chances

Inspection in 2007 has reemphasized the need to move more quickly on integrated learning disability services which is a key priority for the Partnership's Children's Trust. In terms of universal services, we wish to expand, through redirection within the Trust, services received by young people:

- A mentoring programme with external business and other stakeholders to set positive role models, such as a significant other adult, and raise aspiration amongst young people
- A large expansion in tailored support to parents and families about taking responsibility for behaviour and a range of lifestyle issues
- A large expansion in the range of activities and things to do for young people across the borough which at present is clustered and under resourced compared to need. This will not see an expansion in fixed/traditional youth services but rather an expansion in the services commissioned for and by young people from a range of providers through engagement and commissioning. New provision will include five 'indoor street corners' in relevant daytime/evening hours.
- Free childcare for targeted groups

In terms of attainment, whilst we are proud of schools' impressive improvements in key stages, we recognise that we must better translate these successes into more top A/A* grades at GCSE and a higher quantity and quality of A level results with more young people securing university places. A key priority of BSF is to ensure that post-16 provision is configured to improve the offer and success rate at A level across the borough as a whole; and we also wish to improve partnerships between schools and the FE sector to more widely ensure a holistic approach to post-16 opportunities and appropriate outcomes for young people.

Be safe, feel safe

Fear of crime remains a key concern for residents even though the level of crime is the most reduced in the capital by targeted actions in response to our strategic assessment of crime patterns. This is not just a matter of perception lagging behind reality, but caused by concerns that at times low level antisocial behaviour and nuisance is not checked.

The Council is presently reviewing its entire 'street scene' presence across various activities in order to promote more visibility and through the shared neighbourhood management umbrella all partners are now increasingly working together to respond to concerns in localities.

But beyond more diversion activities for young people, we think more needs to be done through a range of projects targeted at persistent problems. We will continue to catch more criminals and increase the number of sentences made by the courts, but we also recognise that when these sentences are completed, by the targeted use of pooled Area Based Grant we need to expand supported housing, skills, apprenticeship, support from health and drug/alcohol services and break the re-offending cycle that too often results from people leaving prison and having no job or home to go to.

Domestic violence remains a serious concern that blights households and the lives of many women and children. We have developed an innovative joint rapid response team comprising police, health, and social care to deal with these crimes quickly and provide immediate access to support services to families across a range of policy initiatives highlighted in this paper.

A strong community

In our community there are strong, yet unfounded, concerns amongst many white residents that public services disproportionately favour black minority ethnic residents as well as new arrivals into the UK.

The key interventions above around housing, health, skills, children, and antisocial behaviour are key drivers so that all residents sense that change affords the borough a more successful future than past. The three strands of our regeneration strategy - spatial development, skills/employment and arts/heritage – are bringing considerable investment in infrastructure over the next 5-10 years, but many residents see regeneration as a benefit only to people who will move into our area. At present we see residents increasingly approve of a wide range of individual services across the board, which reflect the improvements we have made, and yet simultaneously many residents are increasingly less satisfied with living in the area and public services as a whole.

Furthermore, our analysis of the data and our experience on the ground, have heightened our realisation that there are underlying gender issues which we must address. Proportionately high levels of female NEETs, teen pregnancy, smoking and domestic violence all point to a community where women and girls are all too often undervalued, especially by themselves.

Barking & Dagenham Partnership

Local Area Agree National Indicators

Refresh March 2009

Indicators		Baseline	LAA Improvement Targets			Lead Partnership Board
			2008-09	2009-10	2010-2011	
NI 1	Percentage of people who believe people from different backgrounds get on well together in their local area	49.1%	49.1%	51.3%	53.5%	Stronger Borough Board
NI 4	Percentage of people who feel they can influence decisions in their locality	37.4%	37.4%	39.4%	41.4%	Stronger Borough Board
NI 5	Overall/general satisfaction with local area	56.4%	56.4%	N/A	60.1%	Public Service Board
NI 15	Serious Violent Crime rate	Baseline to be set July 2009	Baseline year	3% reduction from baseline	6% reduction from baseline	Safer Borough Board
NI 16	Serious acquisitive crime rate	27.2 offences per 1,000 population Mar 08	6.4% reduction from baseline	7.2% reduction from baseline	8% reduction from baseline	Safer Borough Board
NI 19	Rate of proven re-offending by young offenders	Locally set targets				Safer Borough Board
NI 21	Dealing with concerns about anti-social behaviour and crime by the local council and police	29.7%	29.7%	N/A	35.7%	Safer Borough Board
NI 23	Perceptions that people in the area treat one another with respect and dignity	59.2%	59.2%	57.2%	55.2%	Stronger Borough Board
NI 30	Re-offending rate of prolific and priority offenders	Baseline to be announced	18% reduction on cohort offences	1.09 ratio applied 15% reduction on cohort offences	1.09 ratio to be applied	Safer Borough Board
NI 32	Repeat incidents of domestic violence	Baseline to be confirmed July 2009	Baseline year	N/A	28%	Safer Borough Board
NI 40	Drug users in effective treatment	429 (2007-08)	450	472	496	Safer Borough Board
NI 49	Number of primary fires and related fatalities and non-fatal casualties, excluding precautionary checks	Locally set targets				Safer Borough Board

Indicators		Baseline	LAA Improvement Targets			Lead Partnership Board
			2008-09	2009-10	2010-2011	
NI 51	Effectiveness of child and adolescent mental health (CAMHS) services	15	16 (Highest score available)	16 (Highest score available)	16 (Highest score available)	Children's Trust
NI 52	Take up of school lunches	Locally set targets				Healthier Borough Board
NI 54	Services for disabled children	Locally set targets				Children's Trust
NI 56	Obesity among primary school age children in Year 6	Locally set targets				Healthier Borough Board
NI 57	Children and young people's participation in high quality PE and sport	Locally set targets				Healthier Borough Board
NI 72*	Achievement of at least 78 points across the Early Years Foundation Stage with at least 6 in each of the scales in Personal Social and Emotional Development and Communication, Language and Literacy	25.7% (2008 result)	34%	41%	None set	Children's Trust
NI 73*	Achievement at Level 4 or above in both English and maths at Key Stage 2 (threshold)	68.1%	None set	76%	None set	Children's Trust
NI 74 *	Achievement at Level 5 or above in both English and Maths at Key Stage 3 (threshold)	61.7%	None set	70%	None set	Children's Trust
NI 75*	Achievement of 5 or more A*-C grades at GCSE or equivalent including English and Maths (threshold)	39.7%	43%	45%	None set	Children's Trust
NI 80	Achievement of a Level 3 qualification by the age of 19	30% (2006-07)	34%	36%	38%	Children's Trust
NI 81	Inequality gap in the achievement of a Level 3 qualification by the age of 19	Locally set targets				Children's Trust
NI 82	Inequality gap in the achievement of a Level 2 qualification by the age of 19	Locally set targets				Children's Trust

Indicators		Baseline	LAA Improvement Targets			Lead Partnership Board
			2008-09	2009-10	2010-2011	
NI 83*	Achievement at Level 5 or above in Science at Key Stage 3	68%	75%	76%	None set	Children's Trust
NI 87*	Secondary school persistent absence rate	6.9%	None set	7%	None set	Children's Trust
NI 92*	Narrowing the gap between the lowest achieving 20% in the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile and the rest	35.3%	31.4%	29.3%	None set	Children's Trust
NI 93*	Progression by 2 levels in English between key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2	82%	None set	86%	None set	Children's Trust
NI 94*	Progression by 2 levels in Maths between Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2	78.7%	None set	82%	None set	Children's Trust
NI 95*	Progression by 2 levels in English between Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3	25.4%	None set	32%	None set	Children's Trust
NI 96*	Progression by 2 levels in Maths between Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3	46.5%	None set	57%	None set	Children's Trust
NI 97*	Progression by 2 levels in English between Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4	58.2%	None set	61%	None set	Children's Trust
NI 98*	Progression by 2 levels in Maths between Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4	28.6%	None set	33%	None set	Children's Trust
NI 99*	Children in care reaching level 4 in English at Key Stage 2	44.4%	80%	90%	None set	Children's Trust
NI 100*	Children in care reaching level 4 in Maths at Key Stage 2	55.5%	80%	70%	None set	Children's Trust
NI 101*	Children in care achieving 5 A*-C GCSEs or equivalent) at Key Stage 4 (including English and Maths)	7.7%	27.6%	53.3%	None set	Children's Trust
NI 102	Achievement gap between pupils eligible for free school meals and their peers achieving the expected level at Key Stage 2 and 4	KS2 13.4% KS4 15%	13% 14.6%	12.5% 14.2%	12% 13.8%	Children's Trust

* DCSF Statutory Indicators

Indicators		Baseline	LAA Improvement Targets			Lead Partnership Board
			2008-09	2009-10	2010-2011	
NI 110	Young people's participation in positive activities	73.7%	73.7%	77.4%	81%	Children's Trust
NI 111	First time entrants to the Youth Justice System aged 10 - 17	2,370 per 100,000 population	2,322 per 100,000 population	2,274 per 100,000 population	2,230 per 100,000 population	Safer Borough Board
NI 112	Under 18 conception rate	54.6 rate	31.8 rate	28.2 rate	24.6 rate	Children's Trust
NI 117	16 to 18 year olds who are not in education, employment or training (NEETS)	9.7% Nov 07 - Jan 08	9%	8.5%	8%	Business, Jobs and Skills Board
NI 121	Mortality rate from all circulatory diseases at ages under 75 per 100,000	110.68 per 100,00 population (2004-06)	99 per 100,00 population	98 per 100,000 population	97 per 100,000 population	Healthier Borough Board
NI 123	16+ current smoking rate prevalence per 100,000	981 per 100,00 population (2007-08)	979 per 100,000 population	979 per 100,000 population	980 per 100,000 population	Healthier Borough Board
NI 151	Overall employment rate	Locally set targets				Business, Jobs and Skills Board
NI 152	Working age people on out of work benefits	18.6% (May 2007)	17.9%	17.2%	16.6%	Business, Jobs and Skills Board
NI 153	Working age people on out of work benefits in the worst performing neighbourhoods	29% (Q2 2007)	28.2%	26.6%	25%	Business, Jobs and Skills Board
NI 154	Net additional homes provided	835 (2007-08)	1190	1190	1190	Clean, Green & Sustainable Board
NI 155	Number of affordable homes delivered (gross)	203 (2007-08)	595	595	595	Clean, Green & Sustainable Board
NI 163	Working age population qualified to at least Level 2 or higher	50.8% (2006)	52.2%	53%	53.8%	Business, Jobs & Skills

Indicators		Baseline	LAA Improvement Targets			Lead Partnership Board
			2008-09	2009-10	2010-2011	
NI 171	New business registration rate	41.10 per 10,000 population aged 16 and above 2007	0% increase	0% increase	41.51 per 10,000 population aged 16 and above	Business, Jobs & Skills Board
NI 172	VAT registered businesses in the area showing growth	13.5% (2006-07)	0% increase	0% increase	13.48%	Business, Job & Skills Board
NI 173	People falling out of work and on to incapacity benefits	0.96 (May 2007)	0.79	0.76	0.74	Business, Jobs & Skills Board
NI 185	CO2 reduction from Local Authority operations	Baseline to be agreed June/July 2009	Baseline year	% reduction in 2009 against baseline	Additional % reduction in 2010-11 against baseline giving a total % reduction	Clean, Green & Sustainable Board
NI 192	Percentage of household waste sent for reuse, recycling and composting	20.22% (2007-08)	23.5%	27%	31%	Clean, Green & Sustainable Board

Improvement priority	Partnership Board	Our focus to achieve these priorities is to:	National Indicators
Skills and worklessness	Business, Jobs and Skills Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raise household incomes by getting unemployed people into jobs and those in jobs into better jobs Significantly improve the levels of adult skills and qualifications 	NI 151 - Overall employment rate (LOCAL) NI 152 - Working age people on out of work benefits NI 153 - Working age people on out of work benefits in the worst performing neighbourhoods NI 163 - People falling out of work and on to incapacity benefits NI 117 - 16 to 18 year olds who are not in education, training or employment NI 163 - Working age population qualified to at least Level 2 or higher NI 171 - VAT registration rate NI 172 - VAT registered businesses in the area showing growth
A better place to do business		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce NEETs Encourage and facilitate business start ups 	NI 185 - CO2 reduction from Local Authority operations NI 192 - Percentage of household waste sent for reuse, recycling and composting NI154 - Net additional homes provided NI155 - Number of affordable homes delivered (gross)
Housing	Clean Green and Sustainable Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attract and retain businesses by ensuring the borough is seen as safe, clean and business friendly Provide more homes, especially affordable homes Create better places to live 	
Health inequalities	Healthy Borough Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce mortality rates (especially for women) Reduce smoking Reduce obesity - especially in children 	NI 121 - Mortality rate from all circulatory diseases at ages under 75 NI 123 - 16+ current smoking rate prevalence NI 52 - Take up of school lunches (LOCAL) NI 56 - Obesity among primary school age children in Year 6 (LOCAL) NI 57 - Children and young people's participation in high quality PE and sport (LOCAL)

Improvement priority	Partnership Board	Our focus to achieve these priorities is to:	National Indicators
Children and young people's life chances	Children's Trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase qualifications - especially post GCSE • Ensure there are more and better things for children and young people to do • Increase support for children with learning difficulties and disabilities • Increase support for children and adolescents with mental health needs • Reduce teen pregnancy 	<p>NI 80 - Achievement of a Level 3 qualification by the age of 19</p> <p>NI 81 - Inequality gap in the achievement of a Level 3 qualification by the age of 19 (LOCAL)</p> <p>NI 82 - Inequality gap in the achievement of a Level 2 qualification by the age of 19 (LOCAL)</p> <p>NI 110 - Young people's participation in positive activities</p> <p>NI 51 - Effectiveness of child and adolescent mental health (CAMHs) services</p> <p>NI 54 - Services for disabled children (LOCAL)</p> <p>NI112 - Under 18 conception rate</p> <p>NI 102 - Achievement gap between pupils eligible for free school meals and their peers achieving the expected level at Key Stage 2 and 4</p> <p>All DCSF Statutory indicators as indicated above</p>
Be safe, feel safe	Safer Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure people feel safer in their neighbourhoods • Divert people from a life of crime and reduce re-offending • Reduce anti-social behaviour • Reduce domestic violence 	<p>NI 15 - Serious Violent Crime rate</p> <p>NI 16 - Serious acquisitive crime rate</p> <p>NI 19 - Rate of proven re-offending by young offenders (LOCAL)</p> <p>NI 40 - Drug users in effective treatment</p> <p>NI 49 - Number of primary fires and related fatalities and non-fatal casualties, excluding precautionary checks (LCOAL)</p> <p>NI 111 - First time entrants to the Youth Justice System aged 10 – 17</p> <p>NI 21 - Dealing with concerns about anti-social behaviour and crime by the local council and police</p> <p>NI 30 - Re-offending rate of prolific and priority offenders</p> <p>NI 32 - Repeat incidents of domestic violence</p>

Improvement priority	Partnership Board	Our focus to achieve these priorities is to:	National Indicators
A strong community	Stronger Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Listen to people so they feel better able to influence decisions and services Ensure fair access to services Provide opportunities for people to get on well together 	NI 1 - Percentage of people who believe people from different backgrounds get on well together in their local area NI 4 - Percentage of people who feel they can influence decisions in their locality NI 23 - Perceptions that people in the area treat one another with respect and dignity
All	Public Service Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All 	NI 5 - Overall general satisfaction with the local area