

# Leeds Local Area Agreement – An Overview

the Leeds Initiative



**The Local Area Agreement (LAA) for Leeds was signed by the Rt Hon David Miliband MP on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2006. The document is a written agreement, negotiated with Government, which sets out what we're trying to achieve, how we will do it, the targets by which we will measure and report progress, and the way public money will be spent.**

The LAA brings people and agencies together to deliver better, more co-ordinated results for the people of Leeds.

The Agreement lasts for three years and is structured into four 'blocks':

- Children and Young People
- Safer and Stronger Communities
- Healthier Communities and Older People
- Economic Development and Enterprise

Each of the Blocks has a working group of senior officers from different organisations, responsible for delivery.

The Local Area Agreement for Leeds simplifies the way government funding is allocated to organisations and projects,

bringing key accountability under one governance structure. The Local Area Agreement reflects the actions needed to strengthen existing infrastructures at neighbourhood and city-wide levels. It sets out priorities that are dependent on a new relationship between local partners and central government.

Our priorities build on existing plans and strategies in two important ways: They accelerate delivery of key priorities and programmes of change; and develop multi-agency work to deliver a more lasting impact on the lives of individuals, families and communities facing particular obstacles that prevent them from living lives that are happy, healthy, safe, successful and free from the effects of poverty.

In summary, the LAA provides a unique opportunity to make real progress against our key priorities. We welcome the opportunity afforded by government to put an agreement in place that will define a new relationship between government and local partners and, most importantly, deliver better outcomes for the people of Leeds.

## Cross Cutting Principles

- **Empowering local people and building the role of the voluntary, community and faith sectors**

We are committed to valuing and strengthening the three distinctive but interdependent and overlapping contributions of the VCF Sector. These are:

- Representation both at strategic level in governance and decision-making bodies and of service users and residents participating in local forums or district partnerships;
- Service delivery in terms of winning contracts or partnering with statutory agencies to deliver, monitor or review services, also through funding or self help groups to deliver specific activities: and
- Capacity building through activities that build skills, create social inclusion and encourage community cohesion and good relationships between diverse groups

- **Utilising the role of culture**
- We recognise the important role that culture plays in unlocking the creative aspirations of people and communities and its vital role in

promoting Leeds at the hub of the city-region

- **Promoting equality, diversity and social inclusion**

- We recognise that equal outcomes for all individuals and groups cannot be achieved without significantly different inputs. This involves understanding the unique expectations, needs and contributions of individuals and groups and ensuring discrimination and social exclusion are effectively tackled

- **Community Cohesion**

- We recognise that there are different kinds of relationships within communities. These must be recognised and opportunities taken to close existing divides to ensure individuals and families feel comfortable and positive about living and working alongside their neighbours

- **Respect**

- We recognise that all agencies, groups and individuals in the city need to behave in respectful ways to each other. We will seek opportunities for individuals, families and agencies to come together with others in neighbourhoods to build trust, share values and agree acceptable behaviour.

### Children and Young People Block

We want all children and young people in Leeds to be happy, healthy, safe, successful and free from the effects of poverty. To achieve this we will continue to make Leeds a great city for children and young people and their families, working with them to ensure they have the skills, confidence and opportunities to thrive and achieve their potential, regardless of their circumstances and the barriers they may face.

The CYP block of Leeds LAA will provide:

- A mechanism to support delivery of our [Children and Young People's Plan](#), a bridge to [the Leeds Regeneration Plan 2005 - 2008](#) and a focus on 'narrowing the gap' for the children and young people in the communities targeted;
- A catalyst for accelerated change to release creativity, intelligent innovation and build sustainable community capacity to deliver change for children, young people and their families in our most disadvantaged communities.

The LAA Will support our aspirations and plans to:

- Bring about a step change in the lives of children, young people and their families focused on recognisable communities based on the 31 super output areas, measured in terms of impact by reference to our LPSA2 targets;
- Focus in the first instance on families within these communities who have a young person in Year 9;
- Pioneer a holistic approach focused on prevention and early intervention that offers opportunities to support all family members clearly informed by common data sets, joint planning arrangements and local stakeholder participation;
- Develop a universal offer for children, young people and their families differentiated to meet the needs of individuals and groups and which fully takes account of the role and contribution of the voluntary community and faith sector;
- Offer a menu of possibilities to the young person and their family focused on their needs and aspirations and negotiated with them.
- Raise aspirations, self esteem, ambitions and achievement through development of

personalised multi-agency provision delivered at a local level;

- Improve provision for those who are out of school; and
- Promote community cohesion through the design and delivery of the universal offer.

### **Healthier Communities and Older People Block**

We want to promote a healthy and positive society, to protect health and address health inequalities, to provide high quality, sustainable and accessible services, and to reduce the barriers which prevent people from being involved in every day life - whatever their condition or age.

To achieve this we will:

- Promote a healthy and positive society;
- Protect health and address health inequalities;
- Provide high quality, sustainable and accessible services;
- Reduce the barriers which prevent people from being involved in every day life - whatever their condition or age;
- Enable people in Leeds to actively choose health, in terms of opportunities and their determinants, and choice in health and social care.

The Block will focus on 2 significant work streams:

#### 1. The health and wellbeing of older people

Our ambition for older people is a life worth living, where older people are respected and included; their contributions acknowledged; they are enabled to remain independent; and enjoy good mental and physical health. Priorities have been drawn from the Older People Strategy and focusing on areas of financial security; transport and physical activity.

#### 2. Employability with special reference to exclusion through mental health and musculoskeletal disorders

This directly addresses a key issue for Leeds where 32,500 people are registered as being on incapacity benefit. The intention is to develop an innovative Leeds model that can offer individualised packages to move people from incapacity benefit due to mental illness and/or musculoskeletal conditions to employability.

The two specific work areas within this Block are divided between two leading partnerships.

The first, focussing on Older People will be led by Social Services, with direct input from a range of organisations

including: the Pensions Service, The Revenues and Benefits section of Leeds City Council, the Learning and Leisure Department, the transport section of City Services and the Older Better Strategy Team.

The second area of work is being led by the NHS and has a project team including representatives from [Job Centre Plus](#), [Jobs and Skills Service](#) (Leeds City Council), and the [Leeds Mental Health Employment Consortium](#).

### **Safer and Stronger Communities Block**

Our vision is for everyone to feel safe in and part of their thriving neighbourhood. Individuals and communities should have a sense of belonging to and pride in their neighbourhood. They should feel that their neighbourhood benefits from and contributes to the success of the city.

To achieve this we will:

- Target resources in a more responsive and flexible way at the neighbourhood level;
- Build on existing partnerships that maximise our ability to deliver improved services at the local level;
- Put local people, families and communities at the heart of service planning and delivery.

How will we use the Local Area Agreement?

- To deliver safer, cleaner and greener neighbourhoods that people will be proud to belong to;
- To achieve reductions in the misuse of alcohol and drugs and the associated violence and antisocial behaviour that affects families, communities and the city as a whole;
- To invest in housing renewal and major regeneration schemes to develop sustainable mixed communities, access to affordable housing and improved housing conditions;
- To increase social inclusion and cohesion through empowered communities that have a common vision, sense of belonging and positive identity where diversity is valued.

The LAA will support our plans in:

- Developing respected and cared for public and private spaces;
- Developing community confidence to challenge anti-social behaviour and hate crime;
- Developing opportunities for local residents to help manage their neighbourhoods through strong, inclusive and accessible neighbourhood structures.

### **Economic Development and Enterprise Block**

The aim of the block is to deliver improved and accelerated outcomes through innovation and utilising freedoms and flexibilities to make sure that the wider community can benefit - part of the city's Leeds Regeneration Plan.

To achieve this we will:

Tackle Worklessness:

- We will help more lone parents and people who claim incapacity benefit to get jobs;
- Target the activity towards the most deprived areas;
- Build on Leeds' track record of high quality projects.

Develop a new business and enterprising culture across the city growth area

- Develop an enterprise culture in the city;
- Support new business formation;
- Support business growth and survival.

Tackle financial exclusion in deprived areas

We will strengthen and support the partnership based Leeds Financial Inclusion Strategy, focusing on providing for those in deprived communities. This work will look particularly at:

- Affordable credit;
- Debt advice;

- Knowledge of financial literacy and basic household budgeting.

Improve the physical infrastructure to support long term social, economic and sustainable objectives by:

- Transport to link local people in deprived communities to economic opportunity;
- Public realm projects to attract investment and benefit local people;
- Ensure investment in 14-19 learning skills provision is aligned to high quality resources in communities.

The LAA will enable us to work further and expand our already strong links to wider policy agendas such as the [Regional Economic Strategy](#); [The Northern Way Growth Strategy](#); and [The West Yorkshire Sub Regional Investment Programme](#).

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**Key Dates**

**November 2006** – Assessment of the LAA by Government Office for Yorkshire and the Humber

**November – January 2007** ‘Refresh’ negotiations with Government Office Yorkshire and Humberside

**April 2007** – ‘Refreshed’ LAA with new targets and indicators goes live

**Access to Documents**

A full copy of the agreement and all papers relating to the work of the LAA can be found at

[www.leedsinitiative.org/laa](http://www.leedsinitiative.org/laa)