

The meeting of the executive board on 26th February considered the following:

Strategic session: safeguarding children

Cheryl Hopkins, CYPF Director for Strategy and Commissioning led a strategic session on safeguarding children. The capacity and demand issues in Birmingham were fully explained as well as the sensitivities and national context. The DCSF has agreed additional funding for senior management capacity to help strengthen Birmingham's response to the issues identified by Ofsted in its 2008 assessment. Discussion centred on Serious Case Reviews, joint agency working on referrals and the complexities arising where criminal proceedings were in place. The CYP Partnership explained the work it was leading with key partners to make improvements to the quality and timeliness of assessments of children in need and joint working on referrals.

Working Neighbourhoods Fund

Jackie Mould, BB Director, following requests from board members, reported that a commissioning panel chaired by Paul Tilsley would be set up to allocate remaining WNF funds commissioned. Activities will focus on actions designed to respond to the economic downturn and actions to support cross partnership LAA issues.

CAA

Dianne Thomas, CAA Lead, Audit Commission gave a presentation about CAA. Dianne covered the new CAA national guidance and emphasised the importance of the key

themes – sustainability, inequality, vulnerability and value for money as well as looking at how localities are responding to the economic recession. The process begins in April and the final assessment will be published in November 2009.

LAA performance

The board discussed its role and the role of thematic partnerships in managing LAA performance with a view to seeking greater clarity about how the board could add most value as the only place where the big performance picture across the city emerged. The Thematic Leads also gave an update on their key LAA performance issues. Highlights included: -

- Developing the approach to commissioning and personalisation in adult social care and health
- Maintaining Birmingham as the safest core city
- The impact of the new anti-graffiti strategy
- The success of the housing performance panel and the impact of repossessions on homelessness arising from the recession
- The rapid changes to employment figures with the number of individuals coming off Jobseekers Allowance remaining stable but the number of people taking up Jobseekers Allowance now increasing
- The importance of increasing the "offer" for culture, leisure and sport participation in the priority constituencies

LAA refresh

All LAA's across the country are being refreshed. In Birmingham the implications are limited but it does include re-visiting targets. It was agreed that a target for NI 35 (preventing violent extremism) would be set. Employment related targets will not be reviewed until 2010 and following the development of the West Midlands Multi Area Agreement.

Connecting to opportunities - worklessness

It was agreed to submit an expression of interest to Advantage West Midlands for the Connecting to Opportunities fund, which is designed to help address worklessness. The Board agreed the outlined approach based on targeting those furthest from the labour market. A task group is being set up to develop the programme.

LAA delivery plans

Two delivery plans were agreed in principle, namely these were strengthening communities and thriving third sector.

Sustainable Communities Act

The Board agreed that any emerging proposals arising from the Sustainable Communities Act from within the family of partnerships should be shared with the Executive Board.

Next meeting

The next meeting will take place on 8th April 2009.

Jackie Mould

