

LAA TARGET - ACTION PLAN

LAA Indicator No.	NI 59
Lead Partner Organisation	City Council
Technical Data Expert	Ian Holloway
Indicator Owner (Sign Off)	Andy Pepper
Reporting Frequency	

SCS Theme:	Ensuring that children and young people are safe and enjoy, achieve and make a positive contribution to Coventry.	SCS Priority:	<p>SCS Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All children in Early Years will have the foundation for happy, healthy and successful lives. • Standards and choice of learning will have improved and more children will have realised their full potential. • Children and young people's achievements and aspirations will have been fulfilled to the benefit of themselves, their communities and neighbourhoods. • All young people's aspirations will have been raised and their career and employability prospects will have improved. • Children and young people will be making a greater positive contribution. • Children and young people will have supportive families, friends and communities. • Children, young people and their families will have access to universal services and support delivered locally through extended schools, children's centres and community settings. • There will be greater participation of families, children and young people in the design of services and development of local strategies. <p>SCS Short term priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the outcomes for children in need e.g. children with a disability, looked after children, and young carers.
-------------------	---	----------------------	--

1: LAA Target

Indicator Description	Baseline & Year	Target 2008/09	Target 2009/10	Target 2010/11	Success Criteria
Percentage of initial assessments of children's social care carried out within 7 working days.	47.9% 2006/07	70%	75%	75%	

LAA Target information

Coventry's strategy to improve performance in the completion of initial assessments focuses on the establishment of a dedicated Referral and Assessment Service. The role of this service is to receive referrals and complete assessments for the city as a whole; this is intended to facilitate significant improvements in the consistency, quality and timeliness of assessment services.

2: Equalities and Community Cohesion Implications

Summary of overall negative/ positive impacts on target groups/areas:

Assessment service for all children 0-19 who may be need or in need of protection under the Children Act. This will include responsibility for assessing the social care needs of newly arrived children and their families, children at risk of entering the public care system, and children at risk of significant harm. As a citywide service the RAS team is expected to meet the needs of a diverse population living in varying degrees of social deprivation. A key objective will be to ensure that differences in service provision relate to differences in assessed need rather than being primarily associated with ethnicity, gender etc. This will be progressed through an imminent Equality Impact Assessment.

3: Strategic Summary

Description of key activity or activities that may contribute towards achieving target

The Referral and Assessment Service is now working towards improving the quality of assessments and subsequent plans. Professor Thorpe from Lancaster University has undertaken some specific research both with other authorities and within Coventry. It is now our intention to utilise his assistance by training managers and front-line staff to improve quality and assist with the interface between The Referral and Assessment Service and the wider Multi-Agency arena.

Following a successful pilot scheme of two Multi-Agency panels with an emphasis on early intervention and integrated working; it is intended that three Multi-Agency Teams will be developed over the coming months. Social Care managers will attend the 'Panel Meetings' to share decision making in respect of vulnerable children and families ensuring that support is offered at the earliest opportunity by a team of professionals who are best placed to meet the need identified.

4: Delivery Plan – Performance Monitoring of Actions

Ref Nr	Planned Action(s)	Target/ Milestone	Link to Other Plans	Lead Officer	Progress <i>To be completed as part of quarterly monitoring.</i>
NI59	Complete development of improved performance management system.	70%	CLYPD Operational Plan	Allen Torrance	

Ref Nr	Planned Action(s)	Target/ Milestone	Link to Other Plans	Lead Officer	Progress <i>To be completed as part of quarterly monitoring.</i>
	To put in place single agency training to engage RAS staff team in fully with Multi-Agency Development and the CAF system.				
	Formal review of service after 6 months with involvement of key stakeholders				

5. Performance Indicators

Indicators - Performance Monitoring of Indicators								
Ref No	Description	Baseline	Target 08/09	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Target Met Yes/No
NI 59	Percentage of initial assessments of children's social care carried out within 7 working days.	47.9% 2006/07	70%	77.3%				
Other indicators that will be used to track progress, including disaggregated measures for target groups.								

6: Funding & Planned Spend

Funding & Planned Spend	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	Total	Comment/Rationale
Funding for this indicator is integrated into the wider RAS team budget and cannot be expressed separately.					

7: Risk Assessment

Ref No.	Risk	Mitigating action
	Performance Management ICT system fails	Access an alternative system
	Unusually large intake of referrals requiring Initial Assessment	Utilise other staff within the RAS service and wider neighbourhood service
	Staffing issues (recruitment/retention/sickness)	Continue to recruit to establishment and monitor retention issues. Seek special authority to cover sickness if necessary