

The Merton Local Area Agreement 2008-2011

'Bridging the Gap'

Introduction

This document is Merton's Local Area Agreement for 2008-11. It sets out the priorities that the Merton Partnership will work towards to improve outcomes for people who work, live and learn in the borough and, in particular, to 'bridge the gap' between the eastern and western wards in the borough. It includes various sets of performance indicators and targets by which the Partnership and Government will measure how well it is doing in delivering these outcomes.

The first set of indicators and targets listed in this document are the ['stretch'](#) targets that were agreed between the Merton Partnership and Government as part of Merton's first LAA which was completed in 2007. Because they are 'stretch' targets they will be honoured by Government and are therefore shown in this document because the Partnership remains highly committed to their delivery.

Some targets are set by central Government – these are the statutory education targets listed [below](#).

Others have been agreed between the Partnership and Government as ['designated'](#) targets. This means that they are areas of priority for Government and that Merton's performance will be reported to and monitored by Government on a regular basis. They are also areas of high priority for the Partnership as their delivery will play a significant role in bridging the gap in Merton (see ['Context and Background'](#) below for more information on this).

A further set of performance indicators and targets are those described as ['local'](#). These are included in the LAA to represent a broader picture of the Partnership's local improvement priorities. Performance on these does not have to be reported to Government but will be monitored by the Partnership.

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Context and background

The Merton Partnership agreed its first Local Area Agreement (LAA) in April 2007. It has made excellent progress during the first year and is very confident about its ability to deliver its objectives. The long term vision and ambitions for delivering sustainable improvements for the borough and its residents are expressed in Merton's Community Plan for 2006-15 – the LAA reflects medium term priorities which can be delivered by the council working alone or in partnership with others.

The Merton Partnership has reviewed and refreshed the LAA to ensure it reflects changing local needs and concerns, areas of underperformance, external assessments of the council and emerging national issues.

The LAA is to be the central delivery contract between government and the council. The new LAA will still include a set of priorities with targets to reflect local and national priorities, which the Government and the Partnership will monitor, and the council and its partners welcome the commitment that the LAA will be 'the only place where central government will agree targets with us on outcomes delivered by local government on its own or in partnership with others'. The LAA will also include other local targets which the Partnership alone will monitor.

Merton receives little additional place-based funding from the Government. The local Primary Care Trust is in a challenging financial situation. The LAA grant which supported Merton's first LAA was small (£2.3m in 2007/08). The Partnership therefore welcomes the principle of the new non-ringfenced Area Based Grant which will pool a much wider range of grants which the council will be able to spend on the issues that matter locally.

LAA priorities

Merton's population is 197,700 (mid-year 2006 estimate) and is projected to increase to 207,400 by 2015. Merton remains a borough of contrasts between the affluent wards in the west (Wimbledon) and the more deprived wards in the east of the borough (Mitcham):

- Average household income in the borough is £29,000 a year, but in wards in Mitcham it is between £5,000 and £13,000
- The borough average unemployment level is 3.3% but it ranges from 2% in Village ward (west) to 5.4% in Cricket Green (east)
- Village and Hillside wards (west) are in the 5% most prosperous in the country – Cricket Green, Lavender Fields and Pollards Hill (east) are in the 15% most deprived
- All of the eastern wards have higher proportions of people without any qualifications than the average for England
- Female life expectancy at birth in the Cricket Green area of Mitcham (77 years of age) is more than eight years shorter than in the Hillside district of Wimbledon (85.3 years)
- At the 2001 Census approximately 25% of the population was from black and minority ethnic groups, whereas around 50% of children attending Merton schools – where 160 languages are spoken – are from these groups.

For these reasons *Bridging the Gap* remains the overall theme for the LAA, particularly focusing actions on the priority areas of multiple deprivation shown in Appendix 5, with the aim of lifting the opportunities for people in those areas so that they are comparable with those in the west of the borough. In implementing their action plans, partners are ensuring that they highlight the gaps that they seek to address, identify actions which will address those gaps and measures which will demonstrate that change has been delivered. This will continue for new targets in this refreshed LAA.

Because it is only one year since the delivery of the LAA started, most of the outcomes and priorities remain unchanged – a position that is supported by what residents told us last summer.

The Annual Resident Survey 2007 (ARS) was carried out in July and August with more than 1,000 residents across the borough¹. Subsets of questions were targeted both at young people and at people aged 50 and over. Residents' top five personal concerns have remained the same for two years (2006 and 2007):

- Council tax
- Crime
- Traffic congestion

¹ Annual Resident Survey 2007 <http://intranet/mertonintelligenceanddata.htm>

- Litter/ dirt
- Education standards

There was no fall in approval in any of the questions about people's perceptions of the council, but there was a strong improvement in satisfaction relating to the council providing 'good value for the Council Tax paid' and 'doing a good job'; ratings for Merton as a council that 'listens' 'involves' 'responds' and 'informs' are all now ahead of London. There were strong improvements in perceptions about policing and public transport. 81% of Merton residents agree that the local area is a place where people from different backgrounds get on together – Asian British are the most likely to disagree, followed by Black British and although the overall figure has fallen from 84% last year, there has been improvement in perceptions among these groups this year. There has been an 8% fall in worry about crime since 2006.

Nevertheless, each thematic partnership has reviewed its own priorities to make sure they are still relevant. All thematic partnerships have their Community Engagement Network representatives and also have structured links to user/resident groups with whom they can discuss and develop strategies and programmes. In most cases, they have been able to draw from recent consultation exercises without embarking on new ones – for example, for the Strategy for People Over 50 in summer 2007, for the Safer Merton Strategic Assessment in the autumn, and for the recent consultation about the Mission for Merton.

The rest of this section describes how the Merton Partnership is organised and has developed recently to ensure it has the capacity to deliver - and that it involves those organisations and individuals who can best manage the development and delivery of local ambitions and priority actions as set out in the Community Plan and the LAA.

Merton's Local Strategic Partnership – the Merton Partnership

The Partnership is progressing well. The governance structures of the Partnership have embedded well and partners work ever more constructively together. Its first Partnership Improvement Plan is complete and the second is underway. Developments have included:

- Negotiation of the first LAA, which commits partners to work together to 'bridge the gap' between the eastern and western wards;
- the launch of the Partnership website (www.mertonpartnership.org);
- the completion of self assessments by all thematic partnerships against the characteristics of an effective partnership - the development of their own improvement plans is underway;
- a first away day for Executive Board members, thematic partnership chairs and leads which identified gaps in partnership working to address in the new Improvement Plan; and
- publication of an Annual Report.

The five Thematic Partnerships are focused on the delivery of the Community Plan and Local Area Agreement ambitions, ensuring remedial action is identified and can be seen to be effective when performance slips, reporting on such exceptions to the Executive Board at least three times a year and in more depth on their theme once a year. They are structured to reflect the strategic areas for action in the Community Plan and LAA and making more linkages with each other will be a focus for the coming year, to ensure that they support and are supported by the actions of each other.

The voluntary and community sector (VCS) has now elected five Community Engagement Network representatives to the Partnership, two to the Executive Board and two to each Thematic Partnership. This has given them an effective voice and a continuing role in the overall governance of the Merton Partnership and the performance management of the LAA, which the Partnership values as a significant contribution to the development and delivery of local strategies and services.

Key challenges for the Partnership in 2008 centre around delivery of this new style LAA, refreshing the Community Plan and preparing for the introduction of the Comprehensive Area Assessment (when external inspectors will judge how well partners work together and deliver sustainable improvements for local residents).

Merton's Compact with the Voluntary and Community Sector

For the third year running, the Merton Compact has won a commendation. It is for 'Compact Way of Working' and supports the 2007 work in integrating the Compact into the Merton Partnership. The Compact Board has a strategic governance role to ensure that the Merton Compact is implemented. It has representatives from the voluntary sector and police, council, fire, health and further education. It is represented on and reports directly to the Merton Partnership Executive Board, and has already made positive contributions and interventions, for example, to health LEC governance, the council's annual revenue grants process, and to the development of a local volunteering strategy.

Merton's Community Plan

The first light touch 'refresh' of Merton's Community Plan will start in April with the aim of launching the revised Plan in June 2009. When it was launched in June 2006, the intention was to periodically review and update the Plan to adapt to the changing needs, priorities and aspirations of the borough, with reviews alternating between light touch and more in-depth reviews. Consultation will draw upon recent consultations so as to avoid 'consultation overload' – new consultation will be done only where a particular gap is identified.

The refreshed Plan will reflect the draft statutory guidance². It will be a concise and easy to understand Plan expressing the long term vision and ambitions for Merton as a place, with the associated delivery details of indicators and targets being in the Local Area Agreement. Now that the Partnership has a Community Engagement Network in place, the CEN representatives will be at the centre of the refresh.

The Community Plan refresh also presents the opportunity to align the timeframes of the Plan and the Local Development Framework (LDF). Residents' priorities for the LDF includes regenerating key areas and tackling imbalances between different parts of Merton – therefore underpinning the LAA's *Bridging the Gap* theme.

Merton Council

The council has continued to make progress towards its ambition to become a 4 star authority, providing confidence to partners and central government about its capacity to lead and support the Merton Partnership. External inspectors have drawn the following conclusions this year:

- Merton Council is now rated a 3 star authority, improving well³, and has had a clear audit report on financial management⁴
- Merton's Joint Area Review (JAR) of children's services rated them as good overall⁵
- Merton Council has achieved Level 4 of the Equality Standard for Local Government.

The council has recently completed a wide consultation to establish a new vision and narrative for the borough, which focuses on Merton's strengths as a good place to call home, with strong local communities, a range of opportunities and good value local services. The narrative and accompanying programme of activity will be launched in May 2008. The outcomes from the consultation will feed into the Community Plan refresh.

Equality and Diversity

There is a good track record of cross-agency and cross-sector working in Merton to improve equalities and diversity. The Voluntary and Community Sector is a key provider of services to a range of marginalised groups and it has set standards on equality and working to improve local practice for many years. Merton Police has a diversity inspector. The council has achieved Level 4 of the Equality Standard for Local Government and aims to reach Level 5 by the end of this year.

² Sustainable Community Strategies draft statutory guidance, *Creating Strong, Safe and Prosperous Communities*, 20 November 2007

³ 2005/6 Annual Audit and Inspection Letter for Merton Council, Audit Commission March 2007

⁴ Corporate Assessment of Merton, Audit Commission July 2007

⁵ Joint Review for London Borough of Merton Childrens Services Authority Area, Ofsted 2007

The Partnership already has a Community Cohesion Strategy and Charter. Representatives from all the thematic partnerships have pooled their expertise and knowledge to share ideas about what an equality and diversity policy for the Partnership should achieve. A draft policy was produced⁶ as a basis for wider consultation between December and February 2008. The new policy was agreed by the Partnership in May 2008.

The LAA Themes

The next sections describe the proposed key outcomes for residents under each of five themes, which are:

- Children and Young People
- Safer and Stronger Communities
- Healthier Communities
- Older People
- Local Economy and the Environment

There are two cross-cutting issues being addressed in this new LAA – child poverty and culture.

Merton is not an area of high child poverty – 17% of children are affected by income deprivation, compared with the London average of 28%⁷ but the Partnership is committed to eradicating it and this is a cross cutting theme. It will be led from the Children and Young People Thematic Partnership.

Merton has a 2 star rating for cultural services⁸. It has launched a new cultural strategy. Culture and the arts are valuable activities in themselves but they make a valuable contribution towards sustainable communities, particularly their contribution to health and mental wellbeing. They will be part of the delivery plans of many outcomes, such as using drama to help older people to deal with distraction burglary, or the Bookstart programme promoting educational attainment, and as such will not be written into this document. However, increasing physical exercise, the local benefit from the 2012 Olympics and Paralympics, and engaging in the arts and participating in the Cultural Olympiad are important local priorities and is included.

⁶ Merton Partnership Executive Board, 29 November 2007

⁷ Census data, indicator: proportion of children affected by income deprivation, 2001 (also a compilation of data used in the Indices of Multiple Deprivation, 2004)

⁸ DCMS commentary and Audit Commission: CPA scorecard for Merton Council, 3 July 2007

Indicators and Targets

Following the narrative, there are the appendices listing the various sets of indicators and targets which the Merton Partnership has agreed with Government it will deliver:

[Appendix 1](#) – The 12 ‘stretch’ targets which were agreed as part of Merton’s first LAA and which must be achieved by the end of 2009/10

[Appendix 2](#) – The statutory education targets set by central Government

[Appendix 3](#) – The designated targets agreed between Merton Partnership and Government which will be monitored by Central Government and for which some performance reward grant can be earned if targets are achieved. The rules for this reward have not yet been published and the performance stretch will be earned on performances in Year 2 and 3 of this LAA

[Appendix 4](#) – A set of local indicators and targets reflecting other important local priorities

The LAA themes

Children and young people

THEME CHAIR	Dave Hill, Chair of the Children's Trust Board and Director of Children, Schools and Families, Merton Council
THEME LEAD	Paul Ballatt, Head of Commissioning, Strategy and Performance, Children, Schools and Families, Merton Council

Merton's original LAA was constructed around four of the core elements of the national 'Every Child Matters' (ECM) outcomes framework – helping children to be healthy, stay safe, enjoy and achieve and secure economic wellbeing. In the current LAA, we propose to retain these elements and add targets relating to the fifth ECM outcome area – helping children make a positive contribution.

Since negotiating the original LAA, Merton has been subject to a comprehensive Joint Area Review and other inspections. We have undertaken a review of our statutory Children and Young People Plan, have participated in annual Priorities and Standards meetings with Government and have kept performance data under constant scrutiny. We have also analysed consultation and survey information from young people and adult users of children's services. These processes have informed the proposed new targets.

Being healthy

We are progressing LAA action plans to achieve our Healthy Schools, PE and sustainable travel targets. Merton has a relatively low rate of teenage pregnancy. Smoking in pregnancy is reducing and breast feeding initiation is increasing. Our Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) waiting times performance is improving and we have successfully attracted pilot funding to extend the reach of the CAMHS services. However, the JAR highlighted that our obesity strategy is at an early stage. We propose to accelerate progress with this strategy through including designated and local targets in the LAA, specifically increasing levels of women who sustain breastfeeding; increasing take up of healthy school meals and reducing the anticipated rise in childhood obesity as measured at both reception and year six stages.

Staying safe

Our social care services for vulnerable children are considered good with robust multi-agency safeguarding of children in the community and improving outcomes for looked after children. Through implementation of Merton's Child Concern Model and the national Common Assessment Framework we are increasing multi-agency and multi-disciplinary input into assessment and planning processes. We are ambitious to build on the sustained improvement in these services over recent years and propose to improve compliance with initial assessment timescales during the period of this LAA. Children and

families requiring social care assessment are inherently more vulnerable to poorer outcomes and this measure will further support our overarching 'bridging the gap' aim.

Schools and local authority services will retain a strong focus on reducing fixed and permanent exclusions, including specific targeting of BME exclusions, and on reducing levels of persistent absence and improving attendance overall.

We are working effectively with our schools to reduce bullying and confidence levels of pupils in their schools' ability to tackle bullying have increased. However, recent Resident Survey findings show perceptions of young people continuing to rate bullying as a major concern. We will extend implementation of the SEAL programme across secondary schools and work with our Youth Services and Safer Merton to further tackle this issue.

Enjoy and achieve

This outcome area was heavily represented within our original LAA. Progress has been made in Key Stage tests overall but GCSE performance remains below expectations and fewer young people access and achieve in post 16 provision than in other authorities. Improving secondary provision and post 16 opportunities are key priorities for Merton. In addition to the mandatory targets, we propose to include designated and local targets to increase the participation of 17yr olds in education or training and to narrow the inequality gap in achievement at Key Stages 2 and 4 and of level 2 qualifications within the period of this LAA.

Education represents a central element in our 'bridging the gap' strategy. We are making progress in reducing BME exclusions and have undertaken effective targeted work with African Caribbean boys to improve their attainment levels. We propose to establish local targets to improve attainment of specific underperforming BME groups in GCSEs. Additionally, we propose to include local targets to narrow the achievement gap at Key Stage tests between those receiving FSM and their peers and for children with Special Educational Needs. We also propose to increase levels of participation in mainstream education by these children.

Positive contribution

Merton is making good progress with developing our youth provision, preventing youth crime and developing integrated youth support services. We have particularly strong partnerships engaged in reducing anti-social behaviour and criminal gang activity. We are engaging more young people in our youth services and increasing numbers achieving accredited outcomes through this participation. We have reduced levels of young people not in employment, education or training (NEET). To further support improved outcomes in this area, we propose setting designated and local targets to increase engagement of young people in positive activities and to increase levels of young offenders in education and employment.

Economic wellbeing

Employability and access to employment are key elements in our developing child poverty strategy. Availability of affordable childcare is central to the delivery of this strategy and we propose setting designated and local targets to increase the numbers of low income working families taking up childcare and to reduce the proportion of children living in poverty. We are also seeking to increase numbers of young people achieving Level 2 qualifications by their 19th birthdays.

Levels of care leavers in employment, education and training need to increase if Merton is to 'bridge the gap' in outcomes between these young people and their peers and targets will be set to address this need.

Bridging the gap

Many of the targets for this theme implicitly support the area's 'bridging the gap' agenda. In pursuing specific targets to improve outcomes for Black and minority ethnic children; children with Special Educational Needs, care leavers and those living in the lowest income families, this agreement will sharpen focus on and promote achievement of this core aim.

A number of key strategies will underpin work to achieve the LAA targets. Children's Centres and school clusters will extend local commissioning of services and will be supported by the establishment of multi-agency teams. The new parenting strategy will be implemented to deliver improved universal, targeted and specialist parent support services. Work will continue to implement our secondary school, 14-19 and SEN strategies. We will also continue work to integrate our youth services and services for children with disabilities.

Engaging with the community

The proposals in this theme have been developed by all partners in Merton's Children's Trust, including statutory and voluntary sectors and Community Engagement representatives.

As noted above, proposals have been informed by analysis of user consultation and surveys.

Economic development and environment

THEME CHAIR	Andrew Wakefield, Chair, Merton Chamber of Commerce
THEME LEAD	Michael Owens, Head of Regeneration and Leisure, Merton Council

Increasing skills

National Employer Skills Survey (NESS) data confirms that skills improvement is an essential element of an overall strategy to improve prosperity within Merton and bridge the gap between the east and the west. Almost 16% of Merton employers report skills gaps in their workforce (3% above the London average) whilst the local supply of employees appears to have reduced levels of qualifications. From 2004/05 there has been a 4% decline in the proportion of Merton residents of working age who have at least a level 2 qualification; a 6% decline in the proportion who hold a level 3 qualification and a 4% decline in those who hold level 4 qualifications. In addition an analysis by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) shows that in Merton 395 and 603 adults each year will need to achieve Skills for Life Numeracy and Literacy qualifications respectively over the next three years to achieve national Public Service Agreement (PSA) targets. The LSC is presently negotiating targets with its local providers taking these into account.

Most skills activity is funded through the LSC, which says it will increase the proportion of its funding directed towards improving skills qualification levels (a 20% increase for skills for life numeracy, and a 6% increase for level 2 and level 3 qualifications). In these circumstances including targets within the LAA would not significantly add value to any of the skills indicators over and above the activity delivered through LSC funding. In addition it is not possible to look at NESS data at ward level, so we could not monitor performance in terms of *Bridging the gap* between east and west.

However, the Partnership will support the work of the LSC and providers through developing a Merton skills strategy to increase the potential from LSC funded activity and the impending strategy of the London Employment and Skills Board. This will seek to bring together members of the Merton Partnership to raise demand for skills from Merton employers and residents and make the delivery of skills activity more effective. It will enable the partnership to make the most of the shared benefits from range of initiatives such as local employment partnerships, skills for jobs consortia and regional apprenticeship campaigns, and build on the example set by the council in signing up to a Skills Pledge. It is hoped also that the Partnership will also be able to develop an indicator for inclusion in the LAA in future as it is refreshed which will enable it to monitor progress particularly in bridging the skills gap between east and west.

Encouraging enterprise

Enterprise is a national and regional priority. A 2005 survey of 115 Mitcham Town Centre businesses showed that 80% lack information about business support services and are keen to receive such advice; 70% received no support when starting up. Nonetheless, there is ongoing demand for small affordable business start-up premises – analysis of the South London Property Database in 2006 revealed that for every one business finding commercial premises in Merton during August to October 2006, more than eight others were unsuccessful. 5% of the approximately 9,300 business establishments in Merton employ 10 or fewer people, demonstrating the importance of entrepreneurship in the local economy. Merton ranks 18th in London for business start-ups (2005) but 11th for those surviving for more than three years (2002).

The council, with partners, has a number of initiatives to support enterprise, particularly in east Merton, including the Mitcham Means Business project which promotes business start-ups and assists existing businesses; a project to provide small workshops primarily for creative industries; and a new business incubator. The council also supports Chamber of Commerce business support activities including work with start-ups and existing businesses, some of which is focused on East Merton and the London Development funded Going Green project.

There are also longer term plans to regenerate Mitcham and Morden town centres. However, the businesses currently supported are generally below the VAT threshold level and most do not register for PAYE as they operate on a self employed basis and do not employ staff. Therefore progress can only be assessed through local indicators.

Increasing employment

The employment rate as at March 2006 was 76.3% with significant differences between eastern and western wards, and between white and BME groups. The rate is stabilising after a fall during 2004. The unemployment rate is currently at a record low level of 1.5%, but three of the Neighbourhood Renewal wards (the borough's most deprived wards) have a higher unemployment rate than the London average (Dec 2007).

However, this may have masked seasonal differences as the number increased by 6% in January 2008 which was the second highest monthly increase in the past three years. In addition Merton lost 5,814 full time equivalent jobs between September 2004 and September 2006.

Unemployment for people from Black and minority ethnic groups is up to three times higher than for the white population; it is estimated to be five times higher for disabled people.

In May 2007 there were 5,040 Incapacity Benefit claimants, with higher numbers in the eastern wards and the numbers have been fairly static for some time. 40% of Incapacity Benefit claimants have a primary mental health problem; this rises to 60% when considering primary and secondary health reasons for being on Incapacity Benefit.

The employment rate for people with mental health problems in Merton is only 7%, compared with 18% for London and there is also scope for assisting more people with a learning disability into work. To address these issues the existing Merton LAA already includes a worklessness stretch target.

Lead the local effort to address the impact of climate change

While emissions of CO₂ per person are below the London and UK averages and Merton's emissions of total CO₂ tonnage per person is the fourth lowest in London (2005), in line with national and regional priorities the council is developing a Climate Change Strategy for Merton. The target is to reduce carbon emissions by 15% in 2015 as set out in the Community Plan (estimated as 200,000 tonnes a year from a baseline of 1,326,800 tonnes a year in 2006). The strategy will include actions to mitigate and adapt to climate change across nine key themes - environmental education and awareness raising, energy, planning and development, waste, transport, water, biodiversity and the natural environment, procurement and fair trade, city knowledge.

The strategy recognises that the council has a role as an estate manager, service provider and community leader setting an example in the local area. The council will implement wide-ranging innovative actions to reduce carbon emissions while ensuring it works alongside and encourages partners, residents and businesses to help tackle this issue.

Promote sustainable patterns of consumption and production and an improved environment

The overall objective is to reduce the amount of Merton's biodegradable waste sent to landfill by maximising recycling and developing waste treatment facilities in partnership with Croydon, Kingston and Sutton. Household recycling including composting is currently 27% of all waste.

Merton adopted a new Waste Strategy in June 2006 and there are targets for household recycling rates and tonnage limits for landfill in the Community Plan. The strategy reflects EU, national and regional policies. Waste reduction is a key area of potential joint activity between all sectors of the community within Merton. By reviewing our purchasing habits there are opportunities to reduce our carbon footprint, with two examples being a reduction in plastic shopping bags working with local traders, and the promotion of home composting units to prevent waste entering the waste stream in the first place.

Another strand of the action plan to improve recycling is to narrow the gap in terms of household recycling rates in different parts of the borough – raising levels of participation and for the amount of certain materials recycled to that of areas where the rates are at their highest. Methods for disposal of items for reuse and recycling will be identified in conjunction with the voluntary and private sectors.

Current recycling opportunities for Merton businesses will be expanded. Over 10% of businesses contracted to the council use the council commercial waste recycling service (for paper, card and glass).

The council is working with Merton Chamber of Commerce and other local authority partners to deliver a London Development Agency-funded 'Go Green' project with local businesses focusing on sustainable resource use and waste prevention and reduction.

The state of the street environment plays an important role in determining the quality of life for Merton residents. The continued good progress on the Street Scene Strategy contributes to achieving targets in this area.

The council will continue to focus on improving the street scene by ensuring compliance by businesses and residents with the relevant legislation. In particular, we will target problems involving controlled waste, fly tipping, litter, graffiti, fly posting, abandoned vehicles, stray and dangerous dogs, and associated street environment matters. A range of measures is being introduced including problem solving approaches with partners to target specific areas to tackle wards where the highest incidence of flytips occur and sustained education and publicity campaigns.

Increase the housing supply and affordability

There is a shortage of affordable homes in Merton. Merton's Housing Needs Survey 2005 showed a shortfall of affordable housing for all bed-sizes. As at February 2008, about 5,200 households were on Merton's Housing Register, waiting for a home to be provided by the council or a Registered Social Landlord (RSL). However, only 454 council and RSL homes were available for letting in 2007/08. At present, first-time buyers need an income of around £60,000 per annum to purchase a flat.

Increasing the supply of housing, particularly of affordable housing, and the building of mixed and balanced communities, in particular to address imbalances of social housing supply between east and west Merton, are key priorities in Merton's Housing Strategy. This is in line with Government priorities outlined in the recently published Housing Green Paper, and regional priorities set out in the Mayor's draft Housing Strategy.

In 2006/07, a total of 130 affordable homes were built in Merton. These included affordable homes for rent, 'intermediate' housing such as shared ownership and homes for key workers, as well as supported housing. We have set an ambitious target of delivering a total of 315 new affordable homes

in Merton over the next 3 years (2008-2011), and we will review this target at the first opportunity with a view to further increase the supply of affordable homes in the borough.

Merton is at present conducting a Site Capacity Study, in order to identify further housing development opportunities for the future, and is committed to working towards the 50% affordable housing target set out in the Mayor's Housing Strategy, taking into consideration local capacity and the need to plan mixed and balanced communities.

Merton's Local Development Framework, to include our affordable housing target for the future, is due to be adopted in 2010. In the meantime, Merton has already started seeking 50% affordable housing on all new housing developments, to help bring about a bigger increase in the supply of affordable housing in the near future.

Merton recognises that the Decent Homes Standard is a minimal standard and has aspirations to provide fully modernised homes. Merton does not have the resources to fully modernise homes. The council has therefore taken the decision to formally consult tenants and leaseholders on a proposal to transfer Merton's homes to a Registered Social Landlord in order to bring in the resources needed. To identify the requirements and costs for full modernisation, a new stock condition survey was commissioned. This identified that a greater percentage of council owned homes do not meet the Decent Homes standard than was originally forecast. A new baseline of 62.78% (as at 1 April 2008) has therefore been agreed with GOL, along with subsequent annual improvement targets based on a revised target date for meeting the Decent Homes Standard of 2015. GOL has also approved our plans for the option of a stock transfer.

There is much synergy between reducing carbon emissions, dealing with fuel poverty and affordable warmth issues. The council has an Affordable Warmth Strategy, one aim of which is to reduce the annual 400 avoidable cold related deaths through support for several initiatives targeted at vulnerable people which improve the energy efficiency and warmth of their homes.

Transport – Improve access to jobs, services and social networks

A number of key initiatives will help achieve this outcome. Eastfields station will be built in the near future and should be operational by summer 2008. This will help improve accessibility in east Merton as we know that there is an east/west divide in Merton, with the west side of the borough having much better services than the east. A walking and cycling strategy has been drafted and there are proposals for green routes, initially associated with the Olympics. The Local Implementation Plan, submitted to Transport for London for funding, identifies a programme to enhance cycling and walking facilities with the aim of securing core networks and other improvements.

There are potential links to climate change and promoting the local economy.

Engaging with the community

Four sub-groups report to the Sustainable Communities and Transport Partnership: Local Economy (which also has links to local learning providers), Transport, Housing and Environment (comprising environmental sustainability and liveability including the public realm). The business sector is well represented and voluntary and community representatives (in addition to the formal Community Engagement Network) contribute to the work of these sub-groups.

In addition there have been extensive consultations on the various strategies linked into this theme (for example, climate change, housing, Local Development Framework, Neighbourhood Renewal – the latter including the development of localised action plans through a range of innovative consultation mechanisms tailored to different audiences).

Healthier communities

THEME CHAIR	Angela Gibson, Executive Director – Merton, Sutton and Merton Primary Care Trust
THEME LEAD	Simon Williams, Director of Community and Housing, Merton Council

Asked in the 2001 Census whether their health over the preceding 12 months was 'good', 'fairly good' or 'not good', the finding showed that local people rated their health was better than people generally in London or England. However, views of health vary according to age: locally the proportion reporting good health was 83% of those aged 20-24, but only 32% for those aged 80-84. The population of Merton is younger than the national average, so the best comparison is the age-standardised reporting of good health and among the London boroughs, this ranks Merton as seventh in the proportion of the population reporting good health⁹.

Merton as a whole has good health on most indicators compared with the national average, but this masks differences between electoral wards and sub-groups of the population. All-age, all-cause mortality (death at any age from any cause) is significantly lower than the national average, and well below the London average,¹⁰ but there is an east/west difference, with Figge's Marsh, Ravensbury and Longthornton having significantly higher all-age, all-cause mortality than the Merton average, and Village, Wimbledon Park, Merton Park, Hillside and Dundonald having significantly lower mortality than the borough average (that is, people in the western wards tend to live longer). Narrowing that gap is a key Merton LAA target. On a positive note, trends in life expectancy over the previous 15 years show a steady increase for both men and women in Merton, with women living four to five years longer.¹¹

Most deaths occur in adults and older people and are caused by heart disease, cancer, stroke and respiratory disease. As emphasised in *Choosing Health*¹² and *Health Inequalities in Sutton and Merton*¹³, the most effective action to reduce these premature deaths is to reduce rates of smoking and obesity; increase physical activity and consumption of fruit and vegetables; and to identify and treat other risk factors (high blood pressure and cholesterol). This is already a key focus in Merton's current LAA and will continue to be so.

⁹ Annual Report of the Director of Public Health 2007

¹⁰ London Health Observatory, SMR All-age, all-cause Standardised Mortality Ratio 2001-5 (all persons) by London borough, and All-age, all-cause Standardised Mortality Ratio 2001-5 (all persons) Merton wards.

¹¹ Clinical and Health Outcomes Knowledge Base, London: The Information Centre for health and social care/National Centre for Health Outcomes Development, 2007

¹² Department of Health, *Choosing health: making healthier choices easier*: London HMSO, 2004

¹³ Sutton and Merton Primary Care Trust. *Health Inequalities in Sutton and Merton: developing a platform for local action*. Annual Report of the Director of Public Health 2005.

At any one time, one in six adults suffers from some form of mental illness, one in three GP presentations is mental health related, and the life expectancy of people with mental health needs is ten years lower than the population average because of issues such as low income, poor diet, smoking incidence and lack of exercise. The primary care trust (PCT), with key partners, aims¹⁴ to engage as many people with mental health problems as possible with individually tailored and appropriate intervention at the earliest opportunity, particularly working with the voluntary and community sector whose role is significant and unique particularly for marginalised and vulnerable communities (including people from Black and minority ethnic groups and refugee communities). This refreshed LAA introduces further priorities to improve local mental health and wellbeing.

Another key goal for the PCT¹⁵ and its vision of providing *Better Healthcare Closer to Home* is that more health care is provided in the community, through a network of local care facilities supported by general hospitals. Local care facilities will provide a major focus of care, incorporating much of what takes place in a traditional general hospital with primary and community healthcare and social services. Merton now has integrated key health and social care services, for example, mental health, older people and for people with disabilities, particularly those focused on supporting people to continue living at home and avoid admission to hospital or long term care. Increasing choice and control, including safeguarding remains a key LAA outcome.

We know that addressing the wider determinants of health, such as reducing poverty, improving access to employment and health, and providing lifestyle choices, will have the greatest long term impact, and activities within other LAA themes will contribute to health and well-being. Tackling drugs misuse remains a priority area for action in Merton's LAA – with resultant health outcomes but also impacts upon education attainment, poverty and crime. Tackling excessive alcohol consumption has not received such focused and co-ordinated attention¹⁶. This is a national issue¹⁷. Drug and Alcohol Action Teams have been tasked to reduce the harms caused by alcohol from April 2008. However, over the next year we will establish a baseline of sound information and develop a multi-agency action plan with appropriate indicators and targets national average¹⁸ led by Safer Merton.

¹⁴ Proposed Sutton and Merton PCT goals for the next five years

¹⁵ Proposed Sutton and Merton PCT goals for the next five years

¹⁶ Choosing Health in Sutton & Merton, Annual Report of the Director of Public Health 2007

¹⁷ Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy for England (Cabinet Office Strategy Unit 2004), Our Health, Our Care, Our Say (2006) and Safe, Sensible and Social (2007)

¹⁸ NWPHO from Hospital Episodes Statistics and Office for national Statistics mid-year population estimates. Does not include attendance at A&E which did not lead to hospital admission

Engaging with the community

Healthier Communities workshops were held in November 2006 and 2007. These supported the LAA priorities and the development of a healthier communities strategy and action plans relating to smoking, obesity and mental well-being. Both workshops involved stakeholders from the statutory and third sector.

The voluntary and community sector participated in the IDeA healthy communities programme review (July 2007) through interviews and focus groups. Other areas of involvement include health and social care transformational plans, Healthcare for London consultation and active engagement on the thematic partnership and health partnership boards with CEN representation.

Older people

THEME CHAIR	Simon Williams, Director of Community and Housing, Merton Council
THEME LEAD	Ingrid Lackajis, Head of Libraries and Heritage Service, Merton Council

As a nation we are living longer and enjoying life to the full, well past retirement age. People aged 50 and over in Merton constitute 26% of the local population – roughly 52,000 out of total population of 197,700¹⁹ – and are forecast to increase to over 28% in 2015²⁰. 3,600 of Merton’s population are over 85²¹, and the number is likely to increase disproportionately compared to other age groups. The number of older ethnic minority residents will rise. While living longer, older people are also living with long term conditions (such as heart disease or diabetes) for longer. It is essential that the independence and well-being of older people in general is promoted, enabling them to remain physically and mentally active and stop problems arising later in life. Frail people aged over 85 often have a higher level of need and different requirements for services and it is vital that high quality support and social care is available to them when needed.

Merton Council and its partners have a solid track record in working towards better services for older people. In the five years since the Best Value Review of Older People there has been a growing recognition of the need to address older people’s issues by closely involving them. Many older people are represented on partnership bodies such as the Merton Seniors Forum and Age Concern Merton (who also co-chair the Older People’s Wellbeing Network, previously known as Older People Partnership Board) and The Pension Service is a member of the Older People Thematic Partnership. Another aspect of this approach has been the Celebrating Age Festival. This fifth annual multi-partnership event, funded by the council and organised by Age Concern Merton ran over 15 days and welcomed nearly 5,000 visitors to 140 events, which encouraged socialising, lifelong learning, community participation, health promotion, community safety and intergenerational opportunities.

The Community Plan has endorsed the approach of active ageing and a full expression of citizenship, and the council’s new Mission for Merton initiative is reviewing and updating this approach. New strategies which demonstrate this holistic approach are the Housing Strategy for Older People, the new Cultural Strategy, launched in 2006, and the Strategy for People Over 50 developed in 2007.

¹⁹ Office of National Statistics mid-2006 estimates

²⁰ Greater London Authority projections

²¹ ONS mid-2006 estimate

The last report from the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) in 2006/07 rated adult services in Merton as serving most people well, with uncertain prospects for improvement. Adult social care is in the process of a major change programme. This followed a review to modernise the services and to reflect current national and local policies and good practice. The programme is across all care groups and includes older people, assessment, day care provision, commissioning and contracting. It is looking at ways of providing more effective services to older people through a contact centre, a reablement service (this provides short term, intensive help to maximise a person's independence following a period of illness, disability or loss of confidence) and day care.

The programme is overseen by a Programme Board and a review group of Health and Social Care Scrutiny.

Older person's services were the subject of government (CSCI) inspection in February 2008, specifically addressing issues of personalised care and safeguarding. Their report will be published in June.

For some time, Merton Seniors Forum and Age Concern Merton have worked alongside the council to consult with and identify the interests and concerns of older people in Merton, recognising that older people deserve the same opportunities as everyone else. The Forum also assisted consultation to develop the Strategy for People Over 50. This focuses on nine issues of concern to them (transport, health and social care, leisure and learning, employment, income, personal safety, the environment, housing and having an influence). A key challenge for the Older People Thematic Partnership is to deliver the strategy Action Plan which embraces the breadth of concerns and aspirations of Merton's older residents – and demonstrate real improvements in their lives

There are new plans, for example, to add to the specific activities and services for over 50s at Merton leisure centres and libraries, in partnership with a voluntary and community sector provider – for example, training older people to become healthy walk co-ordinators and building a new Intergenerational Centre within the programme of children centres. The first purpose built Intergenerational Centre is to be built in Merton by April 2009. The Partnership sees this as a further opportunity to enhance the lives of older people as active citizens within their communities and is playing a full role in taking it forward.

The strategy builds on the National Service Framework for Older People and correlates with the Government's strategy for older people in the 21st century, Opportunity Age, and the Mayor's Older People Strategy. The independent Merton's Older People Housing Forum has agreed to review the strategy's progress.

Merton Council has close working relationships with Sutton and Merton Primary Care Trust, other health bodies and statutory sector partners, such as the London Fire Brigade and the Metropolitan Police. Many targets elsewhere

in this LAA (for example, reducing fear of crime, and reducing obesity) impact on the lives of older people, *bridging the gap* between the inequalities in lifestyle and life expectancy at the eastern and western areas of the borough, and have the potential to give older people much greater choice and control over their lives. Those links have been identified and the older people dimension is being recognised and will be measured.

The voluntary and community sector plays a vital role in supporting older people, for example in promoting independent living, providing holistic services that meet their physical, mental and emotional needs, and VCS-based supported accommodation. The VCS also provides services dedicated to people from black and minority ethnic groups, refugees and faith-based groups that are well placed to facilitate inter-generational and cross-cultural dialogues towards the promotion of community cohesion.

Health, wellbeing and personal safety are the top concerns of people over 50 according to Merton's 2007 Annual Residents' Survey. The Older People theme in this LAA focuses on two areas:

- increasing the independence, choice and control available to older people in our community; and
- increasing the number of people who feel they can have their say and be listened to.

These make a significant impact on their feeling of wellbeing. They are also measures that will be influenced by the positive actions taken by the council and partners across a wide range of services.

Engaging with the community

Almost 2,000 people aged over 50 are now involved in the Citizens Panel, Older People Housing Forum, Tenants' and Residents' Customer Panel and as Celebrating Age Festival friends; their contributions help shape and scrutinise local services for older people. Nevertheless we know there are ethnic minority communities who are under represented, and we will work to change this. It is also an ambition to harness the talents of a greater number of our older residents in working alongside service providers in shaping and delivering services.

The voluntary and community sector is involved in governance forums related to older people issues, identifying the issues they want to consider and suggesting solutions. The two CEN representatives on the Older People Thematic Partnership are very active, promoting the interests of older people and working with other partners in developing solutions – but they are equally prepared to challenge partners when their actions are not timely or are less effective than expected. For example, Merton Seniors Forum help with the consultation leading to the Strategy for People Over 50 led to more than 500 very long questionnaires being returned. It also worked with the council to produce a directory of housing options for older people and an older people's lifestyle directory.

Safer and stronger communities

THEME CHAIRS	Chris Bourlet (Merton Police) and Ged Curran (Merton Council)
THEME LEAD	Annalise Elliott (Safer, Merton Council) and Abdool Kara (Stronger, Merton Council)

Safer communities

Merton is an area of low crime, consistently rated as one of the three safest boroughs in London, but fear of crime is disproportionate to actual crime levels. The Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership, called Safer Merton, has led the borough in crime reduction, reducing the fear of crime, reducing anti-social behaviour and illegal drug use for a number of years.

The targets agreed for the Safer strand of the LAA have been drawn from the data collected from the Strategic Assessment and will be reviewed annually (as defined by the crime and disorder act review (CDAR)). The Strategic Assessment pulls together statistical, anecdotal and community evidence as to how drugs, crime and anti-social behaviour should be prioritised and tackled over the forthcoming year. Information on the Strategic Assessment, including what local information and consultations told us, can be found at www.safermerton.org.uk.

The LAA outcomes, priorities and targets for this strand have been selected in order to meet the needs as defined by the Strategic Assessment, as well as meeting our statutory duties and additional performance regimes.

Safer Merton is working in line with the new government strategies on drugs, crime, disorder, anti-social behaviour and alcohol. Safer Merton works to the 'minimum standards' for Community Safety Partnerships as defined by the Crime and Disorder Act review in order to deliver the LAA priorities in a coordinated fashion across a multitude of agencies including the Police, Fire service, Sutton and Merton Primary Care Trust, Voluntary and Community Sector and the council. Work is underway in aligning the LAA priorities with those coming out of the new Assessment of Policing and Community Safety (APACS) framework.

The Strategic Assessment prioritised the following five areas: Anti-Social Behaviour, Alcohol, Burglary, Domestic Violence and Young People. Therefore targets in the areas of reducing volume and violent crime, increasing community confidence, reducing illegal drug use and reducing anti-social behaviour have been made overarching priorities for the LAA.

Reducing the number of fires in the borough also remains a priority. With this in mind we will continue to work towards the existing stretch targets.

In terms of *Bridging the gap*, work is underway to change the perceptions of crime and actual crime across the borough to ensure that all communities feel safe and are safe, but also that the Partnership *bridges the gap* between some of the most disadvantaged members of our community (for example, ex-convicts, current drug users and gang members) and our more mainstream communities, as well as working with those who are most vulnerable, including the elderly, the young, those that experience domestic violence and abuse and/or hate crimes.

The delivery of the 'Safer' priorities will have a positive impact on many other areas of the LAA - examples of this would include:

- work on alcohol-related violence will have a positive impact on health;
- work with gang members will contribute to outcomes for the children and young people's theme;
- reducing the fear of crime will particularly improve older people's quality of life;
- getting ex-drug users and prolific and priority offenders off the streets and into training and employment will help to meet targets for the local economy and environment theme; and
- having a safer Merton will enable us to meet our cultural aspirations.

Engaging with the community

The current Strategic Assessment has been written with input, consultation and suggestions from our local communities. Safer Neighbourhood panels, users, careers, voluntary and statutory sector partners have all been involved in setting the direction of the crime and disorder plan.

To ensure that we have a wide mix of participants informing our work we have used existing consultation (for example, a previous consultation with young people and their attitudes to crime), non-traditional groups (such as drug user groups that work with us) as well as community consultation and web-based community access.

The Voluntary and Community Sector is represented on our Boards and Panels and has therefore been fully integrated into the process, including providing some of the statistical data that has helped us to set our priorities. The VCS also contributes to the delivery of our objectives.

Work with the business sector is growing and improving. However, we plan to build on this and increase participation and input for future years.

Stronger communities

Merton is a borough in which most people of different backgrounds get on well together. Nonetheless, the results from the 2007 Annual Residents' Survey (ARS) show that there is room for further work in this area:

- 81% of respondents said that people of different backgrounds in their local area get on well together. However, this figure is down from 84% in 2006. There also remains a disparity between the borough average and the views of Black and Black British, and Asian and Asian British residents. We want to see improvement over the next three years that will bring all groups up to 86% by 2011.
- Similarly, only 57% of ARS respondents feel that Merton Council treats people in a fair and non-discriminatory way. We want this figure to be 60% by 2011.

The Merton Partnership is committed to promoting strong community relations, a real sense of belonging, and a commitment to Merton across all communities delivered through its Community Cohesion Strategy, including:

- working with the borough's diverse Muslim communities and mainstream umbrella organisations to deliver projects to develop capacity within communities, including for young people and women
- developing a community cohesion toolkit to support voluntary and community groups to make sure community cohesion is always considered in their activities
- facilitating events to bring people of different faith, racial, cultural and age groups together, often working with Merton's Interfaith Forum.

The Merton Partnership is consulting on a borough-wide Equality and Diversity Policy, which is due to be ratified by June 2008. The Merton Racial Equality Partnership is also developing the second phase of an innovative racial equality toolkit for partnership working.

These activities will promote diversity and community cohesion, working alongside the implementation of the statutory equality schemes of the council and its public sector partners, which were developed with the involvement of local communities.

The effectiveness of our work will be monitored through improvements in residents' perceptions, measured by national indicators: percentage of people who believe people from different backgrounds get on well together in their local area; percentage of people who feel that they belong to their neighbourhood; perceptions that people in the area treat one another with respect and consideration; and fair treatment by local services.

There is no direct evidence of extremism within the borough – but there is no room for complacency and so we want to continue to focus on prevention, extending our work under the Government's 'Preventing Extremism' fund. We are therefore looking to include a new outcome covering this area, measured by the national indicator 'building resilience to violent extremism'. Linked to this, we will support local people to be prepared to sustain their own safety and that of their families, neighbours and communities in the event of an emergency. This will be measured by the national indicator 'awareness of civil protection arrangements in the local area'.

We also want to target improvements in the way in which the council and other agencies engage with local people and the voluntary and community sector (VCS). We want to build on our award-winning Compact, continuing to work with the VCS on building capacity and extending its role in service commissioning and delivery. A key indicator of progress in this area will be the national indicator 'environment for a thriving third sector'.

In addition, the Merton Partnership's new Volunteering Strategy will draw together various strands of volunteering activity currently undertaken across the council and by partners to provide a more coherent approach, linked to Community Plan and Business Plan priorities. To support this activity, we propose to retain within the new LAA our existing stretch indicator - increase the number of people recorded as or reporting that they have engaged in formal volunteering on an average of at least two hours a week over the past year - along with targets for school governor volunteers (reducing the vacancies for local people volunteering to be school governors, including the percentage of BME people, and reducing the ratio of BME governor places to black and ethnic minority pupils).

Only 52% of ARS respondents agree that they can influence decisions in their local area. To improve this we will promote the council's leadership role, including the role of front line councillors, embracing the place-shaping potential for scrutiny, and developing vibrant community forums across the borough. As a result, we expect to see improvements in performance against two indicators: civic participation in the local area and the percentage of people who feel they can influence decisions in their locality).

Engaging with the community

The priorities for the Community Plan and the council's Business Plan have been influenced by local concerns, identified through different forms of consultation, including the Annual Residents Survey and Mission for Merton conversations between residents other stakeholders and Cabinet Members.

The council has committed itself in its Business Plan to improving the way all residents are involved in all aspects of services and in the council's democratic process, and to ensuring that it treats residents, service users and staff in a fair and non-discriminatory way. We will step up our work in this area to help us respond positively to the new duty to involve local people that the Government has given councils; one of the ways we will do this is by developing the council's Consultation Strategy into an Involvement Strategy.

The Community Engagement Network strengthens access to the democratic process for a range of local voluntary and community sector organisations within the Merton Partnership structure. Engagement with local business is less strong, but they have contributed to the many prizes for the schools arts competition for Peace Week 2007.

Merton LAA stretch indicators and targets 2007-10

STRETCH TARGET	INDICATOR	2008/09 target	2009/10 target	2010/2011 target ²²
National Healthy School Status	Percentage of schools attaining the 2005 National Healthy Schools Status, as measured by DOH data	95% participation	97% participation	89% accredited (2010 calendar year)
		Without stretch: 63% accredited	Without stretch: 75% accredited	
		With stretch: 70% accredited (2008 calendar year)	With stretch: 87% accredited (2009 calendar year)	
	Percentage of schools assessed as 'good or outstanding' as specified in the Kingston, Merton and Richmond Healthy Schools Scheme Handbook, current as of January 2007, as measured by accreditation arrangements therein	Without stretch: 10% enhanced status (good)	Without stretch: 21% enhanced status (good)	
		With stretch: 15% enhanced status (good) (2008 calendar year)	With stretch: 28% enhanced status (good) (2009 calendar year)	

²² N.B This year is outside of the three-year stretch period negotiated in 2007

STRETCH TARGET	INDICATOR	2008/09 target	2009/10 target	2010/2011 target²²	
Improving behaviour in secondary schools	The number of pupils receiving fixed period exclusions from school as measured by DfES national data	Without stretch: 8.3% (673 pupils)	Without stretch: 8.2% (665 pupils)	7.7% (2010/11 academic year)	
		With stretch: 8.0% (649 pupils) (2008/09 academic year)	With stretch: 7.8% (633 pupils) (2009/2010 academic year)		
	The number of pupils receiving permanent exclusions from school as measured by DfES national data	Without stretch: 0.20% (16 pupils)	Without stretch: 0.20% (16 pupils)	0.15% (2010/11 academic year)	
		With stretch: 0.15% (12 pupils) (2008/09 academic year)	With stretch: 0.15% (12 pupils) (2009/2010 academic year)		
	Reduce persistent absenteeism in secondary schools	Without stretch: 7.2% (570) persistent absentees 57,677 half-day sessions missed	Without stretch: 7.1% (560) persistent absentees 56,665 half-day sessions missed	Superseded by NI 87	

STRETCH TARGET	INDICATOR	2008/09 target	2009/10 target	2010/2011 target ²²
		With stretch: 6.6% (525) persistent absentees 53,124 half-day sessions missed (2008/09 academic year)	With stretch: 6.3% (500) persistent absentees 50,594 half-day sessions missed (2009/10 academic year)	
Key Stage 2	Percentage of pupils who achieve Key Stage 2 Level 4+ results in English as measured by DfES performance tables	Without stretch: 84%	Without stretch: 85%	Superseded by NI 73
		With stretch: 85% (2008/09 academic year)	With stretch: 86%	
	Percentage of pupils who achieve Key Stage 2 Level 4+ results in Writing as measured by DfES performance tables	Without stretch: 69%	Without stretch: 70%	
		With stretch: 72% (2008/09 academic year)	With stretch: 73% (2009/10 academic year)	
	Percentage of pupils who achieve Key Stage 2 Level 4+ results in Maths as measured by DfES	Without stretch: 81%	Without stretch: 82%	

STRETCH TARGET	INDICATOR	2008/09 target	2009/10 target	2010/2011 target²²
	performance tables	With stretch: 82% (2008/09 academic year)	With stretch: 83% (2009/10 academic year)	
Key Stage 4	Percentage of year 11 pupils who achieve the equivalent of 5+ A*-C GCSEs including English and maths as measured by DfES performance tables	Without stretch: 44% (692) of end of KS4 pupils gaining 5+ A*-C grades including English & maths	Without stretch: 46% (723) of end of KS4 pupils gaining 5+ A*-C grades including English & maths	Superseded by NI 75
		With stretch: 47% (739) (2008/09 academic year)	With stretch: 50% (786) (2009/10 academic year)	
Accredited Outcomes and NEETS	Number of young people achieving accredited outcomes recorded annually by the Youth Service against BVPI 221b ²³	Without stretch: 500 young people achieving accredited outcomes	Without stretch: 630 young people achieving accredited outcomes	650 (financial year 2010/11)

²³ The accredited outcomes used towards this indicator are all nationally validated and recognised by DCSF: AQA Awards, DoE Awards, Arts Awards, sporting awards form national governing bodies. Please note we will not included recorded outcomes (lesser status) in the scope of the indicator.

STRETCH TARGET	INDICATOR	2008/09 target	2009/10 target	2010/2011 target ²²
		With stretch: 550 young people achieving accredited outcomes (financial year 2008/09)	With stretch: 650 young people achieving accredited outcomes (financial year 2009/10)	
	Percentage of 16-18 year olds not in education, training or employment as measured through the Connexions annual return to DfES using the DfES PSA performance measurement	Without stretch: 6.3% (171) of 16-18 year olds not in education, training or employment	Without stretch: 6.1% (163) of 16-18 year olds not in education, training or employment	Superseded by NI 117
		With stretch: 5.9% (160)	With stretch: 5.6% (149)	
Not known: Maximum 5.4% Data as at January 2009	Not known: Maximum 5.1% Data as at January 2010			
Reduced smoking –	Number of people attending the local NHS Stop Smoking Services who are confirmed as not	Without stretch: 11	Without stretch: 12	

STRETCH TARGET	INDICATOR	2008/09 target	2009/10 target	2010/2011 target²²
children and young people	smoking four weeks after their quit date and are young people under the age of 18, as measured by NHS Stop Smoking data	With stretch: 52	With stretch: 63	
Reduced smoking – people with severe mental health needs	Number of clients with severe mental health issues (enhanced and standard CPA) attending a tailored stop smoking service in both the community and inpatient setting, who are confirmed as not smoking four weeks after their quit date, as measured by NHS Stop Smoking data	Without stretch: 2	Without stretch: 3	
		With stretch: 19	With stretch: 22	
Reduced obesity in adults – weight management for adults	Number of obese older adults living in disadvantaged areas of east Merton achieving a reduction in body weight following attendance at GP referral weight management programmes, and maintaining the loss for 12 weeks, such weight loss being: (i) between 5 and 9.9% weight loss (based on initial bodyweight) by attending 12 sessions (ii) at least 10% weight loss (based on initial bodyweight) by attending 12 sessions	(i) Without stretch: 3 With stretch: 99	(i) Without stretch: 3 With stretch: 99	
		(ii) Without stretch: 1 With stretch: 37	(ii) Without stretch: 1 With stretch: 37	
Increase choice and control for adults of working	Adults and older people receiving direct payments at 31 March per 100,000 population aged 18 or over (age standardised) as	Without stretch: 70 per 100,000 (104 people)	Without stretch: 70 per 100,000 (104 people)	300 people

STRETCH TARGET	INDICATOR	2008/09 target	2009/10 target	2010/2011 target ²²
age and older people	measured by BVPI C51	With stretch: 137.91 per 100,000 (210 people)	With stretch: 197.02 per 100,000 (300 people)	
Empower local people to have a greater role in the delivery of services – volunteering	<p>Increase in the number of people recorded as or reporting that they have engaged in formal volunteering on an average of at least two hours per week over the past year:</p> <p>(i) The number of residents in Merton (other than those from socially excluded groups) who carry out formal voluntary work through groups, clubs or organisations for an average of two hours a week or more over a twelve month period during the lifetime of the LAA, as measured by records collected by partners (Volunteer Centre Merton), from volunteers through groups, clubs or organisations within the borough of Merton.</p> <p>(ii) The number of residents from socially excluded groups who carry out formal voluntary work (as above)</p>	<p>(i) Without stretch: 75</p> <p>With stretch: 160</p>	<p>(i) Without stretch: 50</p> <p>With stretch: 72</p>	
		<p>(ii) Without stretch: 300</p> <p>With stretch: 510</p>	<p>(ii) Without stretch: 185</p> <p>With stretch: 385</p>	

STRETCH TARGET	INDICATOR	2008/09 target	2009/10 target	2010/2011 target²²	
Increase Domestic Fire Safety	Number of accidental fires in dwellings across the borough, as measured by BVPI 142(ii)	Without stretch: 110	Without stretch: 109		
		With stretch: 96	With stretch: 96		
	Number of deliberate fires across the borough, as measured by BVPI 206(i) to (iv) inclusive and LFPI 120(ii) and LFPI 142 (ii)	Without stretch: 376	Without stretch: 376		310
		With stretch: 320	With stretch: 315		
Increasing Employment – Assisting people into work who are on or at risk of going onto incapacity benefit	People in receipt of incapacity related benefits for a minimum of 26 weeks helped into employment by Merton Council and partners of at least 16 hours per week or more for at least 13 consecutive weeks, as measured by records collected by consortium members (led by South West London & St George's Mental Health NHS Trust) for individuals worked with in the borough of Merton	Without stretch: 13	Without stretch: 14		
		With stretch: 44	With stretch: 66		
	People who are on Statutory Sick Pay for reasons of mental health and have been signed	Without stretch: 2	Without stretch: 4		

STRETCH TARGET	INDICATOR	2008/09 target	2009/10 target	2010/2011 target²²
	off by a GP for at least 1 month helped to return to employment by Merton Council and partners for at least 16 hours per week for at least 13 consecutive weeks, as measured by records collected by consortium members (led by South West London & St George's Mental Health NHS Trust) for individuals worked with in the borough of Merton	With stretch: 17	With stretch: 28	
	People on incapacity benefits for a minimum of 26 weeks helped into permitted work by Merton Council and partners of less than 16 hours per week for at least 13 consecutive weeks, as measured by records collected by consortium members (led by South West London & St George's Mental Health NHS Trust) for individuals worked with in the borough of Merton	Without stretch: 10	Without stretch: 10	
		With stretch: 35	With stretch: 48	

Merton LAA statutory education indicators and targets 2008/09

Indicator reference	Statutory indicator	2006/07 out-turn	2008/09 target
NI 92	Early Years (EYFSP): to narrow the achievement gap at age 5	33.9%	28%
NI 72	Early Years (EYFSP): to increase achievement for all children at age 5	52.3%	56%
NI 73	Key Stage 2: to increase proportion achieving level 4+ in both English and maths *	70%	77%
NI 93	Key Stage 1-2: to improve proportion progressing 2 national curriculum levels in English*	84.6%	90%
NI 94	Key Stage 1-2: to improve proportion progressing 2 national curriculum levels in Maths*	75.4%	84%
NI 74	Key Stage 3: to increase proportion achieving level 5+ in both English and maths *	70%	75%
NI 83	Key Stage 3: to increase proportion achieving level 5 in science *	70%	78%
NI 95	Key Stage 2-3: to improve proportion progressing 2 national curriculum levels in English*	32.4%	37%
NI 96	Key Stage 2-3: to improve proportion progressing 2 national curriculum levels in Maths*	60.3%	68%
NI 75	Key Stage 4: to increase proportion achieving 5 A*-C grades at GCSE and equiv including GCSE English and Maths*	39.8%	52.2%
NI 97	Key Stage 3-4: to improve proportion progressing equivalent of 2 national curriculum levels in English*	63%	68%
NI 98	Key Stage 3-4: to improve proportion progressing equivalent of 2 national curriculum levels in Maths*	33%	38%
NI 87	Attendance: to reduce persistent absentee pupils in secondary schools	7.7%	6%
NI 99	Children in care: to increase proportion achieving level 4+ in English at Key Stage 2	33%	100%
NI 100	Children in care: to increase proportion achieving level 4+ in maths at Key Stage 2	0%	100%
NI 101	Children in care: to increase proportion achieving 5 A*-C grades at GCSE and equiv including GCSE English and maths	54.5%	18%

Merton LAA designated indicators and targets 2008-2011

Outcome	Indicators	Baseline 2006/07 ²⁴	LAA improvement target			Lead partners
			2008/2009	2009/2010	2010/2011	
LAA theme: Children and young people						
Be Healthy	NI 53 Prevalence of breastfeeding at 6-8 weeks from birth	Uptake: 28% Coverage: 45% (2007-2008 quarter 3)	Uptake: 43% Coverage: 85%	Uptake: 50% Coverage: 90%	Uptake: 60% Coverage: 95%	SMPCT
	NI 55 Obesity among primary school age children in Reception Year	12.3%	13%	13.3%	13.6%	SMPCT
Staying Safe	NI 59 Initial Assessments for children's social care carried out within 7 working days	80% (2007/08)	85%	87%	89%	Merton Council Children, Schools and Families department
Enjoy and	NI 91 Participation of	77% (2005)	82% (2009)	83.5% (2010)	86% (2011)	LSC

²⁴ Unless stated otherwise.

Outcome	Indicators	Baseline 2006/07 ²⁴	LAA improvement target			Lead partners
			2008/2009	2009/2010	2010/2011	
Achieve	17 year olds in education or training					
Positive contribution	NI 110 Young people's participation in positive activities	Not available - baseline to be established (Tellus 3 – September)	To be set when baseline data is available	To be set when baseline data is available	To be set when baseline data is available	Youth Service
Economic wellbeing	NI 118 Take up of formal childcare by low income working families	19% (2005/06)	22%	25%	28%	Job Centre Plus
LAA theme: Economic development and environment						
Promote Sustainable Patterns of Consumption and Production and an Improved Environment	NI 191 Residual household waste per head (2007/08)	0.744 tonnes	0.733 tonnes	0.712 tonnes	0.691 tonnes	Merton Council

Outcome	Indicators	Baseline 2006/07 ²⁴	LAA improvement target			Lead partners
			2008/2009	2009/2010	2010/2011	
Increase Housing Supply and Affordability	NI 155 Number of affordable homes delivered (gross)	11 (2007/08 ytd)	105	105	105	Merton Council
	NI 158 % non decent council homes	19.6% (31 March 2008) 62.78% (1 April 2008) ²⁵	58%	66%	64%	Merton Council
Lead the Local Effort to Address the impact of Climate Change	NI 186 Per capita reduction in CO2 emissions	5 tonnes (2005)	3% reduction against 2005 baseline (0.15 tonnes) (of which 0.4% is from local initiatives)	6.65% reduction against 2005 baseline (0.33 tonnes) (of which 0.9% is from local initiatives)	11% reduction against 2005 baseline (0.55 tonnes) (of which 1.4% is from local initiatives)	Merton Council
LAA theme: Healthier communities						
Improved Health and Reduced Health Inequalities	NI 120 All-age all-cause mortality rate	Male = 634.2 Female = 453.2 (2005/06)	Male = 583.96 Female = 420.75	Male = 563.1 Female = 409.01	Male = 542.98 Female = 397.59	SMPCT

²⁵ See page 16 for explanation of baseline

Outcome	Indicators	Baseline 2006/07 ²⁴	LAA improvement target			Lead partners
			2008/2009	2009/2010	2010/2011	
Increase Choice and Control for Service Users and Carers, Including Safeguarding	NI 135 Carers receiving needs assessment or review and a specific carers service, or advice	8.81% (2005/06)	12%	17%	25%	Merton Council
	NI 141 Number of vulnerable people achieving independent living	58.28%	60.42%	65.36%	70.45%	Merton Council – Supporting People service
LAA theme: Older people						
Increase Independence, Choice and Control for	NI 132 Timeliness of social care assessment	66%	77%	85%	88%	Merton Council

Outcome	Indicators	Baseline 2006/07 ²⁴	LAA improvement target			Lead partners
			2008/2009	2009/2010	2010/2011	
People Over 50	NI 139 People over 65 who say that they receive the information, assistance and support needed to exercise choice and control to live independently	No baseline – likely to be carried out for the first time in autumn 2008	Baseline to be established	tbc	tbc	Merton Council
LAA theme: Safer and stronger communities						
Reduce Crime	NI 15 Number of most serious violent crimes per 1,000 population	Baseline to be set	Baseline to be established	tbc	tbc	Metropolitan Police
	NI 16 Number of serious acquisitive crimes per 1,000 population	Rate (per 1,000 population, mid year 2006 estimates) = 16.67 Volume = 3,296	Rate = 16.3 Volume = 3,214	Rate = 15.8 Volume = 3,131	Rate = 15.4 Volume = 3,049	Metropolitan Police

Outcome	Indicators	Baseline 2006/07 ²⁴	LAA improvement target			Lead partners
			2008/2009	2009/2010	2010/2011	
Reduce the Harm Caused by Illegal Drugs and Alcohol	NI 40 Drug users in effective treatment	Baselines to be set for 2007/08	Baseline + 1.92%	Baseline + 3.84%	Baseline + 5.76%	Safer Merton Partnership
Build Respect in Communities and Reduce Anti-Social Behaviour	NI 21 Dealing with local concerns about anti social behaviour and crime by the local council and police	No baseline – likely to be carried out for the first time in autumn 2008	Baseline to be established	tbc	tbc	Safer Merton
Preventing Extremism and Building Community Cohesion and Integration	NI 1 % of people who believe people from different backgrounds get on well together in their local area	81% (ARS 2007)	85%	85.5%	86%	Merton Council

Merton LAA local indicators and targets 2008-2011

Outcome	Indicators	Baseline	Target			Lead partners
			2008/2009	2009/2010	2010/2011	
LAA theme: Children and young people						
Be Healthy	NI 52 Take up of school lunches	Overall baseline not available – to be established Primary = 34% Secondary = baseline not available – to be established	Overall = baseline + Primary = 36% Secondary = baseline +	Overall = baseline + Primary = 38% Secondary = baseline +	Overall = baseline + Primary = 40% Secondary = baseline +	Schools and Academies
	NI 56 Obesity among school age children in Year 6	18.4%	19.3%	19.6%	19.9%	SMPCT
	NI 57 Children and young people's participation in high quality PE and sport	86.4%	93%	New 5 hour target	New 5 hour target	Merton Sports Partnership (also Schools and Academies)

Outcome	Indicators	Baseline	Target			Lead partners
			2008/2009	2009/2010	2010/2011	
	NI 198 Children travelling to school – mode of travel usually used	16.5% (2007 calendar year)	15.5%	14.5%	13.5%	Merton Council Environment & Regeneration department (also Schools and Academies)
Staying Safe	Improve behaviour through reducing the number of exclusions of pupils from black and minority ethnic groups: a) fixed period; and b) permanent exclusions (Child Poverty)	9.3% (fixed period) 0.24% (permanent)	Fixed period: 8.3% (330) Permanent: 0.2% (6) (2008/09 academic year)	Fixed period: 8.2% (326) Permanent: 0.2% (6) (2009/10 academic year)	Fixed period: 7.7% Permanent: 0.15% (2010/11 academic year)	Schools and Academies
	Improve behaviour through improving attendance in secondary and primary schools (Child Poverty)	Secondary: 91.9% Primary: 94.6% (2006/07 Academic year)	Secondary 92.3% Primary 95% (2008/09 academic year)	Secondary 92.4% Primary 95% (2009/10 academic year)	Secondary: 92.5% Primary: 95% (2010/11 academic year)	Schools and Academies

Outcome	Indicators	Baseline	Target			Lead partners
			2008/2009	2009/2010	2010/2011	
	Increase the confidence levels of pupils in their schools ability to tackle bullying (Child Poverty)	'Yes': 31.6% 'In some way': 51.4% (March 2008)	'Yes': 33% 'In some way': 57% (As at March 2009)	'Yes': 35% 'In some way': 58% (As at March 2010)	'Yes': 37% 'In some way': 59% (As at March 2011)	Schools and Academies
Enjoy and Achieve	NI 82 Inequality gap in the achievement of a level 2 qualification by age 19	22% (2007)	21%	20%	19%	DCSF
	NI 102 Achievement gap between pupils eligible for FSM and their peers at KS 2 + 4	19.4%/18.6%	17%/17%	16%/16%	15%/15%	Schools and Academies
	NI 105 SEN/non SEN gap achieving 5 + A*-C GCSE including English and Maths	39.7%	38%	37%	36%	Schools and Academies

Outcome	Indicators	Baseline	Target			Lead partners
			2008/2009	2009/2010	2010/2011	
	NI 108 Key Stage 4 attainment for Black and minority ethnic groups	Black Caribbean = 21% Black Other = 31% Mixed White Black Caribbean = 33% White British = 37%	Black Caribbean = 33% Black Other = 43% Mixed White Black Caribbean = 45% White British = 47%	Black Caribbean = 37% Black Other = 47% Mixed White Black Caribbean = 49% White British = 50%	Black Caribbean = 40% Black Other = 50% Mixed White Black Caribbean = 52% White British = 52%	Schools and Academies
	Increase the level of participation in mainstream education	128 new statements issued/47.3 per 10,000 child population (January 2006)	100 new statements issued/36.7 per 10,000 child population (January 2009)	95 new statements issued/34.7 per 10,000 child population (January 2010)	95 new statements/34.6 per 10,000 child population (January 2011)	Schools and Academies

Outcome	Indicators	Baseline	Target			Lead partners
			2008/2009	2009/2010	2010/2011	
	Increase the percentage of pupils who achieve at least one qualification at GCSE	96%	97.8% (1538) of end of KS4 pupils gaining at least one qualification (2008/09 academic year)	97.8% (1538) of end of KS4 pupils gaining at least one qualification (2009/10 academic year)	98% of end of KS4 pupils gaining at least one qualification (2010/11 academic year)	Schools
Positive Contribution	NI 45 Young offenders engagement in suitable education, employment or training	88.4%	90%	90%	90%	Youth Justice Service
Economic wellbeing	NI 79 Achievement of a Level 2 qualification by the age of 19 (Child Poverty)	69%	70% (2008/09 academic year)	72% (2009/10 academic year)	74% (2010/11 academic year)	LSC
	NI 116 Proportion of children living in poverty	19.5% (2007)	18.5%	17.5%	16.5%	Job Centre Plus
	NI 148 Care leavers in employment, education or training	53% (February 2007)	57% (February 2009)	62% (February 2010)	62% (February 2011)	Connexions

Outcome	Indicators	Baseline	Target			Lead partners
			2008/2009	2009/2010	2010/2011	
LAA theme: Economic development and environment						
Encouraging Enterprise	Number of businesses supported through local initiatives still trading after 12 months	85% survival for west 75% survival for east	85% survival for west 75% survival for east Mitcham Means Business target = 55 businesses	85% survival for west 75% survival for east	85% survival for west 75% survival for east	
Increasing Skills	Informal Learning: People with basic skills needs undertaking a UK Online course followed by an Information Advice and Guidance (IAG) session (scheme located in Pollards Hill)		20	30	35	Merton Council
Promote Sustainable Patterns of	NI 192 Household waste recycled and composted	25.22% (2007/08 ytd)	28%	30%	32%	Merton Council

Outcome	Indicators	Baseline	Target			Lead partners
			2008/2009	2009/2010	2010/2011	
Consumption and Production and an Improved Environment	NI 193 Municipal waste landfilled	77.4%	76%	75%	74%	Merton Council
Increase Housing Supply and Affordability	NI 154 Net additional homes provided		370	370	370	Merton Council
LAA theme: Healthier communities						
Reduced Smoking: Adults and Children	Number of under age tobacco sale visits in east Merton		20	20	20	Merton Council

Outcome	Indicators	Baseline	Target			Lead partners
			2008/2009	2009/2010	2010/2011	
Reduced Obesity in Adults	NI 8 Percentage of adults aged 16+ participating in at least 30 minutes moderate intensity sport and active recreation (including recreational walking and cycling) on three or more days a week, as measured by Sport England's Active People Survey and by re-survey in 2009	21.61%	-	22.61%	22.94%	Merton Council, SMPCT, The Hub, GLL, CSPAN
	Number of people engaged in the London cultural Olympiad through sport and active recreation	0	200	350	500	Merton Council
Improving Mental Well-Being	NI 150 Adults in contact with secondary mental health services in employment	22%	23%	24.5%	26%	South West London & St George's Mental Health Trust

Outcome	Indicators	Baseline	Target			Lead partners
			2008/2009	2009/2010	2010/2011	
	Number of people engaged in the London cultural Olympiad through arts activities and events	0	200	350	500	Merton Council, Wimbledon College of Art, New Wimbledon Theatre, Polka Theatre, Arts Consultative Forum
	Number of people with depression and/or anxiety disorders who are offered psychological therapies	1,572	1,672	1,756	1,844	South West London & St George's Mental Health Trust
	Number of issues made on recommended books on prescription	1,212 (2007/08)	1,272	1,335	1,400	SMPCT/Merton Council
Increase Choice and Control for Service Users and Carers, Including Safeguarding	NI 129 End of life access to palliative care enabling people to choose to die at home		17.1%	18.6%	20%	SMPCT/Merton Council
	NI 142 Number of vulnerable people who are supported to maintain independent living (2007/08)	97%	97.25%	97.5%	98%	Merton Council – Supporting People service

Outcome	Indicators	Baseline	Target			Lead partners
			2008/2009	2009/2010	2010/2011	
LAA theme: Older people						
Increase Independence, Choice and Control for People Over 50	NI 125 Achieving independence for older people through rehabilitation/ intermediate care	New indicator – targets to be set in September 2008 when results from pilot are available			SMPCT/Merton Council	
	NI 133 Timeliness of social care packages for people aged 65+	95	95.5	96	96.5	Merton Council
	NI 138 Satisfaction of people over 65 with both home and neighbourhood	No baseline – likely to be carried out for the first time in autumn 2008	Baseline to be established	tbc	tbc	Merton Council
	Benefit take-up by older people	5,837 (pensioner caseload stock count aged 60+/2005/6)	6,200	6,400	6,400	Merton Council
	Number of emergency unscheduled bed days occupied by the person aged 75+	42,321	41,388	40,952	40,952	SMPCT

Outcome	Indicators	Baseline	Target			Lead partners
			2008/2009	2009/2010	2010/2011	
	Number of patients with complex long term conditions and who are very high intensity users of secondary care services whose care is being managed by a community matron case manager	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	SMPCT
	Take-up of telecare (new people over 65 years receiving at least two items of telecare equipment)	315 (2007/08)	316 (gross number of new customers - excludes equipment returned when people die or move)	316 (gross number of new customers - excludes equipment returned when people die or move)	316 (gross number of new customers - excludes equipment returned when people die or move)	Merton Council
	Number of older people helped to live at home per 1,000 population aged 65 or over	86 (2007/08)	72	74	74	Merton Council

Outcome	Indicators	Baseline	Target			Lead partners
			2008/2009	2009/2010	2010/2011	
	Admissions of over 65 year olds to residential/ nursing care per 10,000 population aged 65 or over	53.08	70	66	66	Merton Council
Making a Positive Contribution	Percentage of older people who feel they can influence decisions affecting their local area	52% (2007)	50+ population: 53.5%	50+ population: 55%	50+ population: 56.5%	Merton Council
	Percentage of older people who feel that their local area is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together	81% (2007)	50+ population: 85%	50+ population: 86%	50+ population: 87%	Merton Council

Outcome	Indicators	Baseline	Target			Lead partners
			2008/2009	2009/2010	2010/2011	
LAA theme: Safer and stronger communities						
Reduce Crime	Bridging the Gap: Reduction in proportion of residents afraid of anti-social behaviour in two hot spot wards in the east of the borough	Cricket Green: 66% Figges Marsh: 67%	Cricket Green: 65% Figges Marsh: 66%	Cricket Green: 64% Figges Marsh: 65%	Cricket Green: 63% Figges Marsh: 64%	Safer Merton
	Reduce the proportion of young offenders who re-offend Percentage of four YJB cohorts (pre-court decision, first tier penalties, community penalties, custodial sentences) presented as a single overall number who re-offend after 24 months	45.5%	43.9%	43.2%	42.5%	Youth Justice Service

Outcome	Indicators	Baseline	Target			Lead partners
			2008/2009	2009/2010	2010/2011	
Reassure the Public: Reducing the Fear of Crime	Views of a proportional representation of the Merton population in response to the question 'How worried are you about crime?'	57% (ARS 2007)	56%	55%	53%	Merton Council
	Bridging the Gap Reduce the gap between the percentage of the community very worried or fairly worried about crime in the east and west of the borough Western wards: Village/ Hillside/ Raynes Park/ Wimbledon Park Eastern wards: Lavender Fields/ Pollards Hill/ Figges Marsh	West: 48% East: 65% Gap = 17%	West: 47% East: 63% Gap = 16%	West: 46% East: 61% Gap = 15%	West: 45% East: 59% Gap = 14%	Merton Council
Reduce the Harm Caused by Illegal Drugs	NI 41 Perceptions of drunk or rowdy behaviour as a problem	48% (ARS 2007)	47%	46%	44%	Metropolitan Police

Outcome	Indicators	Baseline	Target			Lead partners
			2008/2009	2009/2010	2010/2011	
and Alcohol	Reduce public perceptions of local drug dealing and drug use as a problem Views of a proportional representation of the Merton population (Child Poverty)	21% (ARS 2007)	20%	19%	18%	Merton Council
	Bridging the Gap Reduce the gap between the percentage of the community very worried or fairly worried about drug users in the east and west of the borough Western wards: Village/ Hillside/ Raynes Park/ Wimbledon Park Eastern wards: Lavender Fields/ Pollards Hill/ Figges Marsh	West: 25% East: 46% Gap = 21%	West: 24% East: 44% Gap = 20%	West: 23% East: 42% Gap = 19%	West: 22% East: 40% Gap = 18%	Merton Council

Outcome	Indicators	Baseline	Target			Lead partners
			2008/2009	2009/2010	2010/2011	
Build Respect in Communities and Reduce Anti-Social Behaviour	Views of a proportional representation of the Merton population in response to the question: 'How well informed do you feel about what is being done to tackle ASB in your area?'	36% (ARS 2007)	35%	34%	33%	Merton Council
	<p>Mediations:</p> <p>a) Number of referrals made to mediation</p> <p>b) Reduction in the % of referrals that do not engage with the mediation service</p> <p>c) % of cases in which the parties reach agreement, where direct or indirect mediation takes place</p>	<p>(a) 34 annual referrals</p> <p>(b) 28%</p> <p>(c) 75%</p>	<p>(a) 55 annual referrals</p> <p>b) 24%</p> <p>(c) 75%</p>	<p>(a) 60 annual referrals</p> <p>(b) 23%</p> <p>(c) 75%</p>	<p>(a) 65 annual referrals</p> <p>(b) 22%</p> <p>(c) 75%</p>	Sutton & Merton Mediation Service

Outcome	Indicators	Baseline	Target			Lead partners
			2008/2009	2009/2010	2010/2011	
	Reduce people's perceptions of ASB Views of a proportional representation of the Merton population (Seven areas of ASB)	24%	23%	22%	22%	Merton Council
	Views of a proportional representation of the Merton population in response to the question: 'How worried are you about anti-social behaviour?'	62% (ARS 2007)	61%	60%	58%	Merton Council

Outcome	Indicators	Baseline	Target			Lead partners
			2008/2009	2009/2010	2010/2011	
	<p>Bridging the Gap</p> <p>Reduce the gap between the percentage of the community very worried or fairly worried about ASB in the east and west of the borough</p> <p>Western wards: Village/ Hillside/ Raynes Park/ Wimbledon Park</p> <p>Eastern wards: Lavender Fields/ Pollards Hill/ Figges Marsh</p>	<p>West: 51%</p> <p>East: 67%</p> <p>Gap = 16%</p>	<p>West: 50%</p> <p>East: 65%</p> <p>Gap = 15%</p>	<p>West: 49%</p> <p>East: 63%</p> <p>Gap: 14%</p>	<p>West: 48%</p> <p>East: 61%</p> <p>Gap: 13%</p>	Merton Council
Increase Domestic Fire Safety and Reduce Arson	<p>NI 49 (Number of primary fires and related fatalities and non fatal casualties (excluding precautionary checks):</p> <p>(i) Total number of primary fires per 100,000 population</p>	295	285	275	265	Fire Service

Outcome	Indicators	Baseline	Target			Lead partners
			2008/2009	2009/2010	2010/2011	
	Bridging the Gap: reduction in the number of fires in the eight eastern Neighbourhood Renewal wards as named above	524 (three-year average for 2003/04, 2004/05 and 2005/06)	476	466	456	Fire Service
	Number of home fire safety checks completed per annum by fire service and partner agencies targeted to vulnerable households		480	480	480	Fire Service
Empower Local People to Have a Greater Choice and Influence Over Local Decision Making and a Greater Role in	NI 3 Civic participation in the local area	No baseline – likely to be carried out for first time in autumn 2008	Baseline to be established in 2008/09	Baseline + 2%	Baseline + 2%	Merton Council
	NI 4 % of people who feel they can influence decisions in their locality	52% (2007 ARS)	54%	55%	56%	Merton Council

Outcome	Indicators	Baseline	Target			Lead partners
			2008/2009	2009/2010	2010/2011	
Public Service Delivery	NI 7 Environment for a thriving third sector	No baseline – likely to be carried out for first time in autumn 2008	Baseline to be established in 2008/09	Baseline + 2%	Baseline + 2%	Merton Council
Preventing Extremism and Building Community Cohesion and Integration	NI 1 % of people who believe people from different backgrounds get on well together in their local area (with local focus on Black and Asian groups)	Black groups = 79% Asian groups = 79%	Black groups = 82% Asian groups = 82%%	Black groups = 84% Asian groups = 84%	Black groups = 86% Asian groups = 86%	Merton Council
	NI 2 % of people who feel that they belong to their neighbourhood	No baseline – likely to be carried out for first time in autumn 2008	Baseline to be established in 2008/09	Baseline + 2%	Baseline + 2%	Merton Council

Outcome	Indicators	Baseline	Target			Lead partners
			2008/2009	2009/2010	2010/2011	
	<p>NI 23 Perceptions that people in the area treat one another with respect and consideration</p> <p>Particular focus on low scoring areas from the 2007 ARS:</p> <p>Area 4: Lavender Fields/Pollards Hill/Figges Marsh wards</p> <p>Area 5: Ravensbury/St Helier/Cricket Green wards</p>	<p>90%</p> <p>Area 4 = 85%</p> <p>Area 5 = 86%</p>	<p>91%</p> <p>Area 4 = 87.5%</p> <p>Area 5 = 88%</p>	<p>92%</p> <p>Area 4 = 90%</p> <p>Area 5 = 90%</p>	<p>92%</p> <p>Area 4 = 92%</p> <p>Area 5 = 92%</p>	Merton Council
	NI 35 Building resilience to violent extremism	No baseline – likely to be carried out for first time in autumn 2008	Baseline to be established in 2008/09	Baseline + 2%	Baseline + 2%	Merton Council
	NI 37 Awareness of civil protection arrangements in the local area	Tbc	tbc	tbc	tbc	Merton Council

Outcome	Indicators	Baseline	Target			Lead partners
			2008/2009	2009/2010	2010/2011	
	NI 140 Fair treatment by local services	No baseline – likely to be carried out for first time in autumn 2008	Baseline to be established in 2008/09	Baseline + 2%	Baseline + 2%	Merton Council

Performance and risk management arrangements

Performance management

The Merton Partnership has had a performance management framework in place since March 2006. This is reviewed every year to ensure that it continues to meet the needs of the Partnership. The 2008 framework was agreed by the Executive Board on 27 March. Alongside this the Executive Board has agreed a data quality framework which commits each member to ensuring that the data they provide to support the work of the Partnership is of the highest quality. Both these documents can be viewed on the Partnership's website at www.mertonpartnership.org

Reporting against the LAA targets is co-ordinated by Merton Council's Performance & Improvement Team with information being collected and reported every month. Information is then available for all to view at www.merton.gov.uk/council/performance/perfmanagement. Currently partners provide the information to the P&I Team for entering onto this system but work is underway to expand the system so that it can be accessed remotely by partner organisations. This is expected to be in place by the end of 2008.

Thematic Partnerships are responsible for monitoring their performance against the targets set out in the LAA, including assessing any risks to delivery and the impact of any remedial action. Thematic Partnerships provide updates to the Executive board at least three times a year; these provide the Executive with the opportunity to challenge poor performance and identify any particular areas where it wants further information or specific work carried out.

Risk management

In addition, the Partnership has a strategic risk register which is updated by Thematic Partnerships who feed any areas of high risk to the Merton Partnership and its Executive Board as required. Zurich Municipal is currently working with the council to review its risk management arrangements and as part of this work will also be reviewing the arrangements of the Partnership to ensure that they continue to be robust.

Financial arrangements

Area based grant

The Government's 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review announced a new performance and finance framework for Local Area Agreements. A new Area Based Grant (ABG) pools together previously ringfenced grants into a single funding stream to deliver shared outcomes.

From April 2008, all general grants to local authorities, including ABG, will be allocated on a three-year basis to maximise stability and certainty. The allocations for years two and three will be indicative and may, in exceptional circumstances, be subject to change. Local authorities are free to use all of their non-ringfenced funding as they see fit to support the delivery of local, regional and national priorities in their areas, including the achievement of LAA targets. Local authorities and their partners are still responsible for working towards delivering against the National Indicator Set (national targets) and their LAA targets.

Allocations for 2008-2011 and payment of ABG

ABG is a non-ringfenced general grant. Merton has been allocated Area Based Grants of £7.004m in 2008/09, £7.348m in 2009/10 and £7.083m in 2010/11. Annual grant determinations will be made under section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003 by a Minister in the Department for Communities and Local Government, on behalf of all departments contributing funding to ABG. Area Based Grant will be paid monthly to local authorities.

Audit and assessment

The Audit Commission will assess whether authorities have used their resources effectively, with a strong focus on value for money and efficiency as part of the use of resources element of the Comprehensive Area Assessment. Authorities' accounts will be subject to the usual internal and external audit controls.

All ABG income should be recorded as a single line in authorities' published accounts. Area Based Grant should be deducted from gross expenditure in calculating an authority's budget requirement. Authorities are not required to provide any additional information other than that provided in their statutory accounts, statistical returns and Whole of Government Account returns.

There is no expectation that local authorities will use the funding to support the objectives of the former specific grants, and government departments contributing funding to ABG may not place any restrictions on how local authorities spend the money.

Departments may not require authorities to make any separate financial returns detailing how they have spent their ABG allocation, or to make any reports on performance other than those required under the new local performance framework.

There are no restrictions on authorities' ability to carry forward ABG. The Audit Commission will continue to have a role in assessing whether authorities have invested their resources effectively.

Managing area based grants in Merton

The Merton Partnership's Executive Board has agreed to maintain the status quo in 2008/09 and enable grants designated as ABG under the new arrangements to continue to fund existing financial arrangements.

It has further been agreed that a working group will be set up to review management arrangements in future years. This group will be chaired by the council's Director of Corporate Services and the group will comprise:

- Director of Corporate Services
- Representative of the Sutton and Merton Primary Care Trust
- Representative of the police
- Representative of voluntary groups (Community Engagement Network)
- Representatives from Merton Council service departments as appropriate
- Merton Council administrative support as appropriate

This group will consider terms of reference and prepare an appropriate timetable and action plan to enable revised arrangements to be effectively incorporated into partners' budget and business planning processes for 2009-2012.