

**Report to:** Safe Newcastle Board For Approval

**From:** Gillian Tullock Community Safety Co-ordinator

**Report Title:** Local Area Agreement Refresh

**Date:** 24 November 2008

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## Background

The LAA and Sustainable Communities Strategy were formally launched by the Newcastle Partnership in September 2008.

The LAA is a three year agreement between the City Council, the Newcastle Partnership and the Government which sets out the most important priorities to be met through to 2011. It has six main themes

- Better economy – strengthening the economy
- Better health – well being, health and independence
- Better environment – managing environmental impact
- Better place to live – creating and sustaining quality places to live
- Safe, strong communities – creating safe, inclusive, cohesive and empowered communities
- More for young people - better outcomes for children and young people

The LAA must be reviewed and refreshed annually and the 2009 refresh process has now begun

## Safe Newcastle Input into the Refresh Process

Listed below are the current LAA priority objectives, NIs and targets for which Safe Newcastle is the lead delivery partnership. They form part of the safe, inclusive, cohesive and empowered communities theme

### Newcastle LAA 2008 -11: Community Safety Targets

LAA Priority objectives	Measured by	Baseline	2008/09 target	2009/10 target	2010/11 target	Lead Delivery Partnership
1. Reducing criminal damage, domestic burglary, business and vehicle crime	NI 16 Serious acquisitive crime rate (*35 target LAA)	Baseline to be established July 2008 (estimated rate = 18.93)	18.45	17.99	17.54	Safe Newcastle

LAA Priority objectives	Measured by	Baseline	2008/09 target	2009/10 target	2010/11 target	Lead Delivery Partnership
2. Reducing violent crime including domestic violence and alcohol related violence	NI 15 Serious violent crime rate (*35 target LAA)	Baseline to be established July 2008 (estimated rate = 0.45)	0.43	0.42	0.40	Safe Newcastle
	NI 20 Assault with injury crime rate (*35 target LAA)	Baseline to be established July 2008 (estimated rate = 9.60)	9.31	9.03	8.76	Safe Newcastle
3. Reducing anti-social behaviour	NI 21 Dealing with local concerns about anti-social behaviour and crime by the local council and police (*35 target LAA)	Baseline to be established as part of new place survey	Proxy – increase the % of people who say that they are well informed about what the local authority is doing to tackle anti-social behaviour by 2% based on the 2007 Residents Survey city average of 35% <sup>1</sup>	+2%	+2%	Safe Newcastle
4. Reducing the harm caused by alcohol, drugs and other substances	NI 38 Drug related (Class A) offending rate (*35 target LAA)	Nov 07 – 26% proved offences	-25% reduction in arrests for all crime and 35% reduction in arrests for acquisitive crime for those on the drug intervention programme <sup>2</sup>	TBC when NI 38 is defined	TBC when NI 38 is defined	Safe Newcastle
	NI 40 Drug users in effective treatment (additional local indicator)	1141	+9%	TBC	TBC	Safe Newcastle

At the Responsible Authorities meeting held on 11 November, the timetable for the forthcoming refresh was discussed, together with actions necessary for Safe Newcastle to feed into the process.

<sup>1</sup> Note: - this will be measured using a proxy indicator during the first year – baseline and target to be reviewed at the annual refresh.

<sup>2</sup> Note: - this will be measured using a proxy indicator during the first year – baseline and target to be reviewed at the annual refresh.

By the Safe Newcastle Board meeting on 24 November we need to be in a position to identify whether there is a case for any changes to the existing indicators or target figures. There is no presumption that significant changes will be made unless there is a compelling case. There will be the opportunity for further discussion and agreeing details of target figures at forthcoming Safe Newcastle meetings as the refresh process continues.

For the LAA refresh, partners were invited to consider two main questions:

**(1) Are there any indicators that need to change?**

NB We should not be making a lot of changes as the LAA was only agreed in June 2008. Any changes to indicators need to be accompanied with a very good reason for doing so. Neither is this an opportunity for adding additional indicators – the 35 maximum limit in the LAA with Government remains. Therefore any new indicators for community safety would need to replace an existing community safety indicator in the set of '35'.

**(2) Are there any target figures that need to change?**

Examples would include where we did not set a target because we were awaiting data or where we only had proxy data in June and now that we have more up to date figures we need to update our targets. Also, significant changes on the ground may require a review of the targets at this stage. In this case we would need strong evidence for a change. The Government is not expecting wholesale changes to targets.

Safe Newcastle views will be put into the Review report which has to be with GONE by the end of November. Responses on the two questions above were requested from partners by Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November and an update on the responses received will be given at the Board.

**Outline Timetable**

- **End of November 2008** – Review report to GONE indicating where we think we need to change an indicator or target figures with initial evidence on why this is necessary.
- **Mid-January 2009** – Submit draft Refreshed LAA to GONE with proposed changes to target figures included.
- **2 March 2009** – Submit final draft Refreshed LAA to GONE.

## **Recommendations**

Safe Newcastle is asked to

- Note the outline timetable for the LAA Refresh 2009
- Note the action taken to date for ensuring input from Safe Newcastle into the process
- Give provisional agreement that the existing priorities and NIs within the LAA for which Safe Newcastle is the lead delivery partnership should remain, subject to any compelling case for change being identified