

**North Yorkshire Strategic Partnership - Executive**

**2 October 2008**

**NY LAA Performance Management and Governance Framework 'Health Check'**

**(FOR INFORMATION)**

**1 Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 To inform NYSP Executive members of the planned NYCC Internal Audit 'health check' of the performance management and governance arrangements associated with the North Yorkshire Local Area Agreement (NY LAA) 2008/11.

**2 Background**

- 2.1 The current LAA Performance Management and Governance Arrangements are based on supporting LAA Partners and Thematic Leads in the delivery of the Agreement's outcomes. Performance management and governance arrangements are in place which enables the monitoring of performance through individual targets which make up the Agreement; it alerts the NYSP Executive to underperformance; and, provides information as to the intended action to respond to underperformance.
- 2.2 It has been agreed with NYCC Internal Audit that they would include in this year's audit plan some capacity to provide a 'health check' of the NY LAA performance management and governance arrangements. The basis behind this was to provide reassurance to ourselves and partners that such arrangements are sufficiently rigorous following increased importance being placed upon data quality, and to ensure that there are no risks to claiming performance reward grant.

**3 Audit Objectives**

The following objectives have been agreed with NYCC Internal Audit:

- 1) To review the performance management and governance framework in place for the delivery of the LAA and its targets:
  - Are LAA outcomes and targets clearly defined and consistent with other local strategies?
  - Are specific roles and responsibilities clearly defined?
  - Are the delivery plans for the LAA clear and effective?
  - Are there strong controls to ensure accountability and scrutiny within the partnership?
  - Are there clearly defined communication channels?
  - Are there clear decision making processes?
- 2) To review a sample of individual indicators so as to:

- Confirm the reporting framework in operation
- Confirm that the correct definitions are being applied and that relevant staff have a clear understanding of the definition
- Perform sample testing on selected indicators to confirm reported performance is in accordance with definition.

#### **4 Audit Methodology**

The following methodology has been agreed with NYCC Internal Audit:

- 1) Review of key documentation, agreements, records and reports
- 2) Interviews with key officers associated with the governance arrangements in place for the LAA
- 3) Interviews with a sample of partners contributing to the LAA
- 4) Sample testing on selected indicators (1 from each thematic partnership).

#### **5 Recommendation**

- 5.1 Note the planned NYCC Internal Audit 'health check' of the performance management and governance arrangements associated with the North Yorkshire Local Area Agreement objectives and methodology.

#### **6 Appendices**

None.

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