

North Yorkshire Strategic Partnership - Executive

30 April 2009

Comprehensive Area Assessment - Area Self-Evaluation

1 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To update the NYSP Executive on the development of the draft North Yorkshire Area Self Evaluation document, and propose its release to partners for comments and amendments.

2 Progress To Date

- 2.1 The NYSP Executive Meeting in October 2009 commissioned a self evaluation of its activities to support its preparation for the new inspection regime (CAA). This report updates the NYSP on the progress made.
- 2.2 The Improvement & Development Agency's (IDeA) self evaluation tool was used to support the development of an informed view of how the area was doing against our ambitions and targets. It also addressed how progress was to be sustained in the future – balancing risks with available resources. In addition, it considered the role of local political leadership and politically-led dialogue with citizens and communities.
- 2.3 The self evaluation development process has involved representatives from across the partner organisations including all seven district councils, the county council, police, fire, the PCT, national parks and the voluntary sector.
- 2.4 The process began by bringing together the partners in a workshop to discuss how best to approach self-evaluation. A further three workshops were then held to facilitate a shared assessment of the self evaluation questions i.e.:
- local needs and the translation of these into local priorities;
 - the extent of improvements and outcomes achieved; and
 - what gaps need to be addressed and future improvement planning.

These workshops allowed participants to take stock of where we are performing well and to highlight where action is necessary to ensure that we will achieve the outcomes we want for local citizens.

- 2.5 The self evaluation document was then drafted bringing together the information gathered in the workshops. The document was structured in line with the IDeA guidance.

- 2.6 A further workshop was held to discuss the first rough draft, to gain feedback on the structure and content and to fill any gap areas. The document was then redrafted taking into account the feedback from all partners.

3 District LSPs

- 3.1 Work is also being undertaken at LSP level. Hambleton LSP was an IDeA pilot self evaluation site and is now going to undertake a peer review. Scarborough are progressing a self evaluation, Harrogate are undertaking a governance review of the LSP and Ryedale, Richmondshire and Craven are all planning to undertake a self evaluation. Selby have recently undertaken a self evaluation as part of the CPA process and will therefore not undertake another self evaluation this year.
- 3.2 The suite of district level self evaluations should be looked at alongside the NYSP self evaluation as they will provide much more detail on what is happening in each area - which could not possibly be covered in a county wide assessment.

4 Next Steps

- 4.1 The draft self evaluation needs to go out to consultation to all partners and thematic groups to gain sign up to the document and most importantly to develop the action plan for improvement. It is proposed that the final self evaluation and action plan will be reported to the NYSP Executive at its next meeting on 25 June.
- 4.2 The NYSP initially undertook the self evaluation to prepare for CAA but it is now proposed that the NYSP should continue with the self evaluation process as part of the ongoing performance management of the NYSP in line with best practice as promoted by the Audit Commission and IDeA.

i.e.: Extract from CAA Final Framework Document;

“Rigorous and regular self-assessment is a feature of effective organisations and partnerships. Good organisations and partnerships use it as part of their performance management to identify how well they know their communities, if outcomes are being improved, how effectively resources are used, and what needs to be done to sustain and further improve good performance. We will use the information that partnerships and organisations use to evaluate and manage their own performance wherever possible to help gauge how well performance is being managed in organisations and across areas.”

5 **Recommendations**

- 5.1 To agree that the draft self evaluation document should be circulated to all partners for consultation.
- 5.2 To agree that the final self evaluation and action plan be reported to the NYSP Executive on 25 June 2009.
- 5.2 To agree that the self evaluation process, through the now established cross organisational officer group, should become an ongoing part of the performance management of the NYSP.

Appendix: CAA Area Self-Evaluation

Hugh Williamson
Head of Scrutiny and Corporate Performance
North Yorkshire County Council

Author: Claire Lowery

Presenter: Hugh Williamson

8 April 2009