

LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT 2008-2011

Driving Forward our Vision for our Borough-Together

1. Introduction

Since we agreed our Local Area Agreement (LAA) in March 2007, the Richmond Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) has published its Community Plan 2007-2017, entitled "Driving Forward our Vision for our Borough-Together."

The LSP has also completed its leadership review and strengthened its governance arrangements, so that it now comprises a number of thematic partnerships, working together as a whole system for the delivery of the priority outcomes expressed in the Community Plan. (see Appendix 1).

The priorities expressed in this Local Area Agreement, build on the previous LAA 2007-08, but are more closely aligned to our Community Plan. They identify some areas that we want to change in order to improve, but also some where we want to maintain and build on our success.

2. Future Challenges

The London Borough of Richmond is a city suburb with a difference. It is one of the most successful, having been identified as the only London Borough where both economic and social well being are well above the national average.

A high proportion of residents are knowledge workers, in higher earning employment than the national average and unemployment rates are low. Schools are performing well, at above the national average for all key stages. Residents have generally healthy lifestyles, which are reflected in high life expectancy scores. Crime rates are low compared to the rest of London and the environment is characterised by a large proportion of open space and a high quality built environment.

These factors make it an attractive place to live for most residents and 80% are satisfied with their local area, compared with 66% of all outer London residents.

However, the indicators of success also contribute to the challenges we face in the future.

Since 1991 the borough has seen population growth rates of over twice the national average, with people being attracted to the area due to the strong London and south east economy. This is reflected in the population profile, with the proportion of people aged 30-44 higher than the national average. The rate of "churn" is also higher than the national average and the profile of the population is relatively diverse, with 21% of people describing themselves as not White British. This has implications for integration and cohesion, in ensuring that we harness the benefits of diversity to contribute to the economic, social and cultural life of the borough.

Although the older population is similar to the national average, the proportion of those over 65 is set to increase by 7.5% in the five years up to 2012. This population is relatively affluent and well - educated and will demand greater control and choice about the type of care they wish to have in later life, posing challenges for the design and delivery of health, social and leisure services.

Housing is very expensive, with the average house price in the 3rd quarter of 2006-07 rising to £454,932. Low overall deprivation masks some pockets of disadvantage, with a few SOAs in the bottom 30% of the Index of Multiple Deprivation, but geographically located immediately next to SOAs in the top 10%. We have made a commitment to target resources specifically at disadvantaged areas and disadvantaged groups, but need to maintain the overall good level of services that local residents expect and do this within stringent financial constraints.

Sixty two percent of all employed residents commute out of the borough to work and traffic congestion is seen by residents as the aspect of quality of life that most needs improving locally. CO² emissions per capita are the second highest in London, although performance on household recycling is in the upper quartile in London. This reflects a high level of consumption, but also an awareness locally of the impact that we are having on the environment. A key challenge for us is to help people to change their behaviour whilst not adversely affecting their quality of life.

The resources we have to tackle these issues are already the lowest in London and we have had to deliver outstanding value for money in order to maintain the quality and range of our services. We recognise that resources will continue to shrink and that we must continue to find ways of doing more with less, by being innovative, by seizing opportunities as they arise and by working more closely with our partners to deliver for local people.

3. The Development of our Community Plan 2007-2017.

Each of the thematic partnerships making up the Richmond LSP were asked to draw together information about our performance, future policy direction, demographic information and the views of service users, in order to formulate some priority outcomes. We then consulted with residents and specific community groups, on these outcomes in order to gather wider views and comments on what should be included in the Community Plan.

The Richmond LSP then drew these together to develop a vision for the future of a borough that is:

- **Inclusive**
- **Puts protection of the environment at the core of its services and community life**
- **Delivers quality public services that truly reflect the needs of all its local people**
- **Addresses its challenges by harnessing the capacity of all its partners in the public, private, voluntary and community sector.**
- **A Richmond upon Thames that is green, safe and responsive to the needs of all local people.**

4. Community Plan Priority Outcomes

In order to maintain our position as a place that people want to live in, tackle the challenges ahead and achieve our vision, we have identified the following priorities our Community Plan:

- **Priority 1: Tackling disadvantage and inequalities**

- **Priority 2: Being the greenest borough in London**
- **Priority 3: Being the safest London borough for all our communities**
- **Priority 4: Growing up in Richmond upon Thames**
- **Priority 5: Creating a healthy and caring Richmond upon Thames**
- **Priority 6: Creating a vibrant and prosperous Richmond upon Thames**
- **Priority 7: Improving access and participation**

We are in the process of developing strategies to achieve these priorities and identifying measures of success. The Local Area Agreement (LAA) has played an important part in this by enabling us to focus on some key priorities which we can best tackle as a partnership.

5. Local Area Agreement Priorities

The Richmond LSP has agreed that in choosing priorities and indicators to be included in the LAA, they should be issues that require a partnership approach to be tackled successfully and in addition meet at least one of the following criteria:

- Local people consider the issue a priority (as evidenced through consultation)
- The issue is already included in the Community Plan
- The service requires improvement
- Central government sees the issue as a priority

Priorities for inclusion in the LAA were put forward by the thematic partnerships, based on current performance and consultation with the local community. They relate to our Community Plan priorities as follows:

5.1. Tackling disadvantage and inequalities

The Community Plan explains why we have chosen to prioritise five areas of relative disadvantage within our borough. These are:

- Ham
- Heathfield
- Hampton Nursery Lands
- Mortlake
- Castelnau

These areas exhibit higher unemployment and crime and their residents have lower skill levels and poorer physical and mental health than people in the rest of the borough. Higher proportions of disabled people, black and minority ethnic groups, lone parents and older people live in these areas and a complex mix of factors can prevent some of them from realising and exploiting their full potential. The Council and its partners have committed resources in the form of staff and funding to:

- share information about what works in each area
- engage with the communities in identifying needs
- carry out projects designed to offer opportunities for individuals to improve their skills in order to take advantage of the employment opportunities available

- improve the local environment
- work with young mums to get them back into education or employment
- build capacity in the local voluntary sector.

The community development work in these five areas is carried out and co-ordinated by Richmond Housing Partnership and the local voluntary sector, who facilitate “Working Together” groups. These groups are the focus for the co-ordination of our partnership work with the Richmond & Twickenham PCT, police, schools and colleges in the local area. The overall co-ordination of our work in the five areas is overseen by the Community Development Steering Group, a sub group of the LSP, chaired by the Chief Executive of the Council.

By improving the learning outcomes in these areas, enabling residents to have a say and by providing targeted support for families, for children & young people we can have a positive effect on health, worklessness, crime and fear of crime. We are developing local indicators that will enable us to measure success at this SOA level.

Equally we understand that a number of our most disadvantaged residents do not live in one of the five areas mentioned above, but are scattered in pockets across the borough. In order to ensure our resources are focused on the right people we need to be innovative and flexible in how we deliver services to them.

As mentioned earlier, the location of the borough and the access to good employment opportunities in the knowledge economy means that house prices are high and beyond the means of some residents. The increase in affordable housing is therefore a key component of the way in which we are tackling disadvantage and is one of the targets in our LAA.

New affordable housing is energy efficient, unlike much of the older housing stock in the borough and especially that in the private sector. 12.2% of Richmond residents aged 65 and over live without central heating and the older people are, the more likely it is that they will not have central heating. This figure compares to 9.55% in neighbouring Kingston upon Thames. This impacts on the health of older people and their ability to live independently for longer, as well as the carbon emissions in the borough, a high percentage of which are domestically produced. For this reason tackling fuel poverty is also a target within our LAA.

Finally, the issue of community cohesion is one of our challenges. As an outer London Borough we have a higher rate of churn of population and a greater diversity than the national average. Although most people believe that people from different backgrounds get on well locally, we recognise the need to maintain this level of positive response and so have included this target in our LAA.

5.2. Being the greenest borough in London

Our ambition is to be the greenest borough in London, in the sense of maintaining the natural environment, acting in a sustainable way and reducing our energy consumption. The London Borough of Richmond upon Thames is recognised as having a high quality built and natural environment with significant areas of open public space that are unique within London. However, there is a considerable amount to be done in adapting to climate change and protecting the borough from the worst effects, such as flooding, if we are to maintain its character, and also make it a greener place to live.

We are committed to reducing the carbon footprint of the borough by improving the energy efficiency of buildings, increasing the use of renewable energy sources, providing services in a way which minimises the need to travel. The awareness of environmental issues is high in the local population and leads us to think that waste management and recycling remain priorities on which we can improve..

Because we aspire to being the greenest borough in London, we have five targets within our LAA focused on tackling climate change, reducing carbon emissions and reducing waste.

5.3: Being the safest London borough for all our communities

Although our crime rates are low, crime and the fear of crime remains a key priority for our residents. We cannot be complacent and if we wish to be the safest borough in London we must continue to tackle those crime types such as assault and serious acquisitive crime which have most impact on residents. This is reflected within our LAA.

Anti-social behaviour is a lesser problem in Richmond than for all residents across London as a whole. However, it is a key factor impacting on overall satisfaction with the Council and particularly for older people, can have an adverse affect on their quality of life, as despite low crime rates, fear of crime is disproportionately high. Since crime rates are low, sensitivity to even quite low level anti social behaviour tends to be high. We have therefore included a target to measure how the council and the police together deal with local concerns about anti-social behaviour.

5.4. Growing up in Richmond upon Thames

The recent Joint Area Review of Children's Services judged Richmond to be outstanding overall and reflected what partners were already tackling. One of the areas where it is felt that working more closely in partnership could make an improved impact on outcomes was Children & Adolescent Mental Health Services. Related to this and in view of the paramount importance of keeping children safe, it was felt that safeguarding our looked after children should also be a priority for the LAA.

5.5. Creating a healthy and caring Richmond upon Thames

The first draft of our Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) which was completed in January, indicated that the proportion of people 65 and over in the population will increase by 7.5% in the next five years, but that numbers in the very elderly group (85+) will remain at the current level. Referral data confirms that the local population remains independent of social care support until an advanced age. This may be attributed to the general good health of the population as a whole, with people remaining active longer.

Our priorities for the LAA are therefore are to maintain a good quality of life for all those between 18-69, with an emphasis on being in work and to improve the quality of life for those receiving care packages, especially older people, those with dementia and to improve end of life care.

We are continuing to work on our JSNA, to provide a robust platform for developing strategies to improve the quality of life for a number of different client groups, including a strategy for the Ageing Population which will inform future joint commissioning of services.

5.6. Creating a vibrant and prosperous Richmond upon Thames

This priority area will be dealt with entirely within the Community Plan, rather than as a focus of the LAA. As noted above, employment rates are high with the majority of workers commuting out of the borough. The local economy is mature with a high proportion of SMEs and people owning their own businesses. The level of influence that the local authority can have is therefore limited and relatively small scale.

5.7. Improving access and participation

If we are to be inclusive and responsive to the needs of local people we need to listen and ensure that our services continue to change in line with technological advances and lifestyle choices. A key priority therefore is to continue to work together to empower local people to have a greater choice and influence over decision-making and public service delivery.

The Council has a clear focus on community engagement in the five areas of relative disadvantage and is planning to strengthen its focus elsewhere across the borough by providing more resources to support the community engagement vehicles it already has, such as the interfaith forum and developing new ones, such as the Voluntary Sector Forum.

By paying attention to local communities and communicating back to them the changes that have been made, we hope to improve peoples perception about their power to influence decisions locally.

6. Engaging Partners in the Development of the LAA

6.1. Involving Local People

Local people have been directly involved in developing the Community Plan 2007-2017 by taking part in an online consultation and in focus groups designed to reach older people, people with disabilities and children and young people.. In addition a number of the thematic partnerships use specific vehicles to engage with local people, such as the Community & Police Partnership, Police Liaison Groups, Pupil Parliament and School Council, who feed their views into the development of strategy or who are consulted on particular issues.

The Council continues to use its Citizens' Panel to consult regularly as well as commissioning individual pieces of consultation on issues such as the Local Development Framework or parking charges.

6.2. Involvement of Elected Councillors

Elected councillors play a key role in partnership working, with the relevant cabinet portfolio holder sitting on our thematic partnership groups. These groups each decided which of the indicators should be priorities for them within the LAA. The Leader of the Council chairs the LSP and a steering group was established to oversee the LAA. Cabinet Members have been involved at all stages of the process, agreeing the priorities and the indicators to be included within the LAA, both at informal and formal meetings of the Cabinet.

Performance reports on progress with the Community Plan targets and LAA will be received by our Overview and Scrutiny Committees, as well as the Cabinet and LSP

6.3. The Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS)

A wide range of voluntary and community groups are members of our thematic partnerships groups, contributing to the development of plans and priorities. In addition, the LSP consults with a number of community engagement groups, as shown in the structure chart in Appendix 1.

The Council and its partners funds two posts in the voluntary sector to enable groups to engage fully with the Children & Young People's Partnership and the Adult Health and Well-Being Partnership.

We aim to establish "Working Together Groups", in each of our areas of disadvantage, which bring together statutory agencies and local people to focus on work at a geographical level. There are currently thriving groups in 3 of the 5 areas and work is underway in relation to the other two.

The Council is currently implementing a new funding strategy with the VCS, based on the priorities in the Community Plan and the integration of grants and commissioned services. Future funding agreements will be for three years and closely linked to partnership performance monitoring arrangements.

We are also currently reviewing the Compact, which is out for consultation with the sector.

6.4. Business sector

As a result of our leadership review of the LSP we now have representation from a large local business on our Greener Richmond Partnership and LSP, as well as the local Chamber of Commerce. We have also recently established the Business Skills and Employment Partnership which includes business representation and local businesses are involved in a number of initiatives with our Community Safety Partnership.

6.5. Partner Authorities

The following partner authorities are full members of our LSP:

- Jobcentre Plus
- Learning & Skills Council (L&SC)
- Richmond & Twickenham Primary Care Trust (PCT)
- Police.

The police, L&SC, PCT and Council representatives comprise the LAA Steering Group.

South West London St.Georges Trust and the Youth Offending Team (YOT) are members of the Children & Young Peoples Partnership.

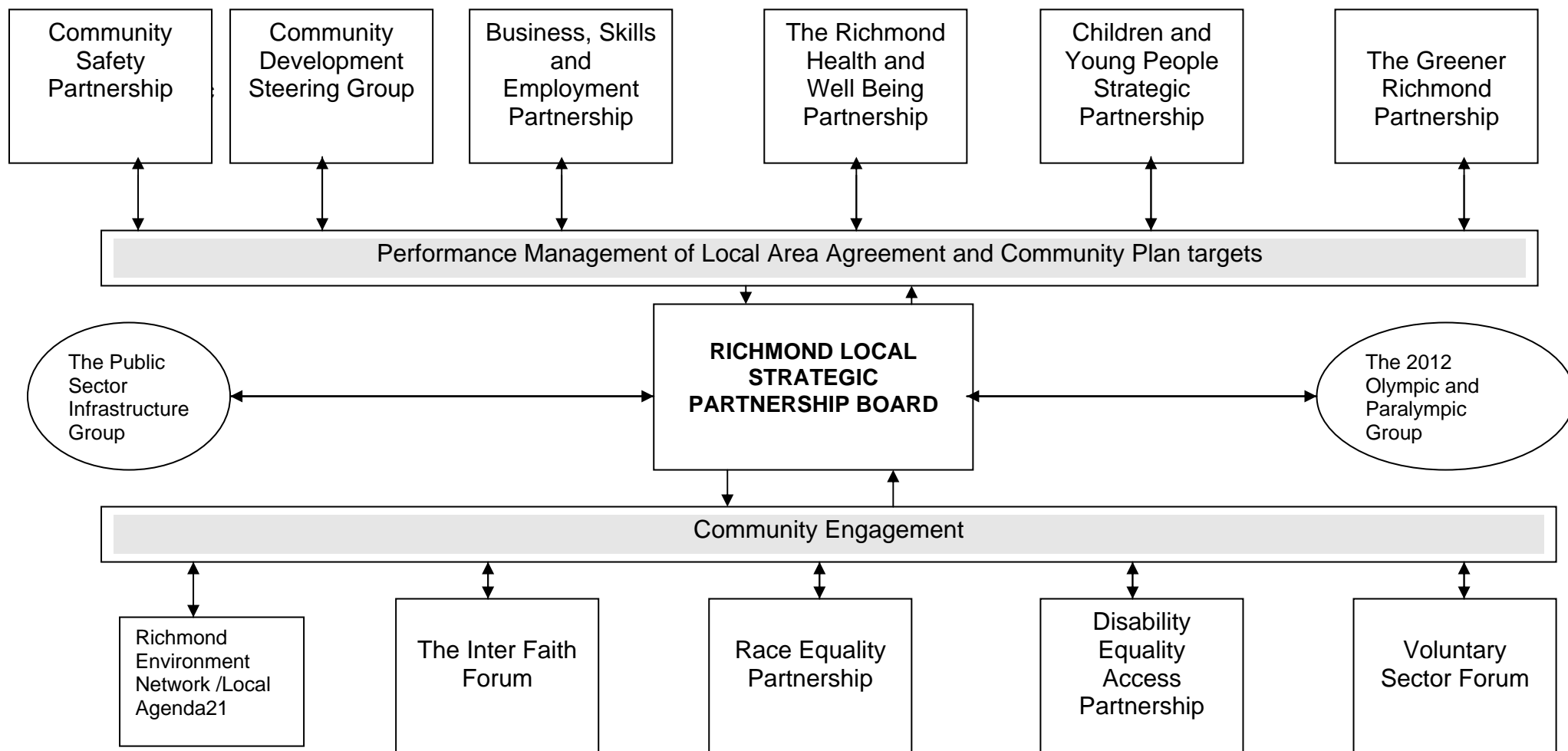
The London Probation Board, Fire and Rescue Service and the YOT are members of the Community Safety Partnership.

We have invited Transport for London to join our Greener Richmond Partnership and have agreed a flood risk management targets with the Environment Agency.

References

1. Driving Forward our Vision for our Borough-Together The Richmond upon Thames Community Plan 2007-2017
2. London Borough of Richmond upon Thames - Your Say 2017 - www.yoursay2017.org.uk
3. London Borough of Richmond upon Thames -Local Area Agreement March 2007
4. State of the Suburbs – an economic, social and environmental analysis if the English Suburbs – Local Futures
5. <http://www.go-london.gov.uk/boroughinfo>
6. Best Value General User Survey 2006/07 – Ipsos MORI

The Structure of the Richmond Local Strategic Partnership



DRAFT LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT INDICATORS & TARGETS 2008-11

TACKLING DISADVANTAGE						
Priority	National Indicator	Baseline (please include baseline figure as well as source and year of data . If baseline not available please state and say when it is to be established.)	LAA Improvement Target Including those to be designated (shown with a *) and including education and early years targets.			Partners Who have signed up to the target and any which are acting as lead partners (shown with a *)
			2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	
Affordable housing	NI 155 Number of affordable homes delivered (gross)	2005/06 110 2006/07 53 2007/08 206 (est) Total 369 (est)	160 units*	119 units*	119 units*	LA*, Richmond Housing Partnership
Improvement in energy efficiency of private sector housing	NI 187 Tackling fuel poverty – people receiving income based benefits living in homes with a low energy efficiency rating	Survey to be carried out to provide baseline.	Survey to be carried out*	To be agreed following baseline survey*	To be agreed following baseline survey*	LA*

BEING THE GREENEST BOROUGH IN LONDON							
Priority	National Indicator	Baseline (please include baseline figure as well as source and year of data . If baseline not available please state and say when it is to be established.)		LAA Improvement Target Including those to be designated (shown with a *) and including education and early years targets.			Partners Who have signed up to the target and any which are acting as lead partners (shown with a *)
				2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	
Reducing CO2 emissions	NI 185 CO2 reduction from Local Authority operations	Target not expected for 2008-09		Baseline to be set in 2008*	To be agreed at yr 1 re-fresh*	To be agreed at yr 1 re-fresh*	LA*
	NI 186 Per capita CO2 emissions in the LA area	6.00 tonnes (DEFRA 2005)	<i>Spatial level</i>	4.2% reduction against baseline (0.25 tonnes CO2 per capita)*	6.7% reduction against baseline (0.4 tonnes CO2 per capita)*	10.8% reduction against baseline (0.65 tonnes CO2 per capita)*	LA*
			unitary				
	NI 188 Planning to adapt to climate change	Level 0		Level 0*	Level 2*	Level 3*	LA*
Realise ambition to be the greenest borough – to include waste management & recycling	NI 189 Flood and coastal erosion risk management	a) Actions in the Draft Thames Catchment Flood Management Plan.		70%*	90%*	90%*	LA*, Environment Agency
		b) Actions in the TE2100 Plan		100%*	To be agreed at yr 1 re-fresh*	To be agreed at yr 1 re-fresh*	LA*, Environment Agency

	NI 191 Residual household waste per household	2006-07 679 kg/household	613 kg/household*	582 kg/household*	553 kg/household*	LA*
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BEING THE SAFEST LONDON BOROUGH FOR ALL OUR COMMUNITIES						
Priority	National Indicator	Baseline (please include baseline figure as well as source and year of data . If baseline not available please state and say when it is to be established.)	LAA Improvement Target			Partners Who have signed up to the target and any which are acting as lead partners (shown with a *)
			2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	
To be the safest borough in London.	NI 1 % of people who believe people from different backgrounds get on well together in their local area	BVPI GUS 2006/7 Agree – 15% Tend to agree – 65% Total 80% Net agree score 70	Place Survey*	As per Place Survey baseline.*	4% improvement on Place Survey baseline* 1	LA*
	NI 16 Serious acquisitive crime rate	Rate 16.47 offences per 1000 pop Volume 2957 serious acquisitive crime offences	Rate 15.93 Volume 2859*	Rate 15.81 Volume 2839*	Rate 15.65 Volume 2809*	Police*, LA

¹ The target should be a meaningful improvement in the level from the 2008 Places Survey Baseline to the 2010 Places survey final measure, subject to response rate.

	NI 21 Dealing with local concerns about anti-social behaviour and crime by the local council and police	Place survey data October 2008 (New Q – target not expected 08-09)	Place survey*	To be set at year 1 refresh*	To be set at year 1 refresh*	LA*, Police
	NI 20 Assault with injury crime rate	2007/08 Rate = 4.69 less serious wounding offences per 1000 population (mid yr 2006 est) Volume = 841 less serious wounding offences	Rate = 4.64 Volume = 833 Reduction of 1 % or 8 offences from 07/08 baseline*.	Rate = 4.57 Volume = 820 Reduction of 2.5% or 21 offences from 07/08 baseline*	Rate = 4.50 Volume = 807 Reduction of 4% or 34 offences from 07/08 baseline*.	Police*, LA

GROWING UP IN RICHMOND UPON THAMES						
Priority	National Indicator	Baseline (please include baseline figure as well as source and year of data. If baseline not available please state and say when it is to be established.)	LAA Improvement Target			Partners Who have signed up to the target and any which are acting as lead partners (shown with a *)
			2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	
Be healthy	NI 51 Effectiveness of child and adolescent mental health (CAMHS) services	2007/08 16/16	16/16*	16/16*	16/16*	PCT*, LA

	NI 66 Looked after children cases which were reviewed within required timescales	91.0%	92%*	93%*	95%*	LA*
	Mandatory Indicators	AY 06/07	AY 0809			
	NI 72 Achievement of at least 78 points across the Early Years Foundation Stage with at least 6 in each of the scales in Personal Social and Emotional Development and Communication, Language and Literacy	65%	71%*			LA*
	NI 73 Achievement at level 4 or above in both English and Maths at Key Stage 2 (Threshold)	80.6%	86%*			LA*
	NI 74 Achievement at level 5 or above in both English and Maths at Key Stage 3 (Threshold)	71.1%	79.0%*			LA*
	NI 75 Achievement of 5 or more A*-C grades at GCSE or equivalent including English and Maths (Threshold)	48.5%	58.1%*			LA*
	NI 81c Achievement at level 5 or above in Science at Key Stage 3	75%	82%*			LA*
	NI 87 Secondary school persistent absence rate	8.1%	6.7%*			LA*
	NI 92 Narrowing the gap between the lowest achieving 20% in the Early Years Foundation Stage	28.2%	24.8%*			LA*

	Profile and the rest					
	NI 93 Progression by 2 levels in English between Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2	88.8%	92%*			LA*
	NI 94 Progression by 2 levels in Maths between Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2	82.3%	89%*			LA*
	NI 95 Progression by 2 levels in English between Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3	31.5%	40%*			LA*
	NI 96 Progression by 2 levels in Maths between Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3	63.2%	70%*			LA*
	NI 97 Progression by 2 levels in English between Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4	62.9%	68%*			LA*
	NI 98 Progression by 2 levels in Maths between Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4	32.3%	37%*			LA*
	NI 99 Children in care reaching level 4 in English at Key Stage 2	66.7%	25%*			LA*
	NI 100 Children in care reaching level 4 in Maths at Key Stage 2	66.7%	50%*			LA*
	NI 101 Children in care achieving 5 A*-C GCSEs (or equivalent) at Key Stage 4 (including English and Maths)	44.4%	37.5%*			LA*

CREATING A HEALTHY AND CARING RICHMOND UPON THAMES						
Priority	National Indicator	Baseline (please include baseline figure as well as source and year of data. If baseline not available please state and say when it is to be established.)	LAA Improvement Target Including those to be designated (shown with a *) and including education and early years targets.			Partners Who have signed up to the target and any which are acting as lead partners (shown with a *)
			2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	
Care-and provision for older people – Quality of life for those receiving care packages – possibly use a local indicator. Older people & dementia End of life care Quality of life for all those between 18-69 and emphasis on being in work.	NI 125 Achieving independence for older people through rehabilitation/ intermediate care	Not available	Deferred until baseline available *	To be agreed at refresh*.	To be agreed at refresh*	PCT*,LA* (Joint lead)
	NI 129 End of life care- access to appropriate care enabling people to be able to choose to die at home	2005-2006 baseline 18.8%	24%*	26%*	28%*	PCT*, LA* (Joint lead)
	NI 138 Satisfaction of people over 65 with both home and neighbourhood	New Q – target not expected for 2008-09	Place survey*	To be agreed at refresh*.	To be agreed at refresh*	LA*/PCT/Police

IMPROVING ACCESS AND PARTICIPATION						
Priority	National Indicator	Baseline (please include baseline figure as well as source and year of data. If baseline not available please state and say when it is to be established.)	LAA Improvement Target Including those to be designated (shown with a *) and including education and early years targets.			Partners Who have signed up to the target and any which are acting as lead partners (shown with a *)
			2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	
Work together to empower local people to have a greater choice and influence over decision-making and public service delivery	NI 4 % of people who feel they can influence decisions in their locality	BVPI GUS 2006/07 Def agree – 6% Tend to agree – 34% Total – 40%	40%*	44%*	44%*	LA*