

LEICESTERSHIRE LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT**STRONGER COMMUNITIES THEME**

SCS/LAA Outcome - Well supported volunteering opportunities are provided within and by the community
LAA Indicator - N16

In Local Area Agreement 1 (LAA), the Stronger Communities Board worked through the LeicesterShire Volunteer Centre Network to explore opportunities under five themes - Older People, Children & Young People, Economic, Sport and Culture. A Co-ordinator was employed and different Volunteer Centres took the lead on the various themes.

In LAA 2 Volunteering is a cross-cutting theme and with the changes to Voluntary & Community Sector Core Infrastructure Services, the delivery plan is focusing on the Value Added that the Leicestershire Together partnership and the LAA brings.

The need for the Volunteer Network Co-ordinator, who acts as the Lead Officer for Volunteering in the LAA, is clear. The role will be to work across the LAA themes, provoking the thinking around appropriate opportunities for volunteering and consistent high quality support for volunteers. The Co-ordinator's role would also include seeking sustainable funding for initiatives after LAA 2, as happened under LAA 1 with youth and the successful application for the 'v' project.

The LAA target, to be measured by the place survey, is across all communities in the county. Promotional opportunities need to be taken with particular groups of 'hard to reach' people determined by analysis of the Place Survey, research being undertaken by the VCS Infrastructure Consortium and Volunteering England. However, it is already agreed that Older People should be a target group. Another area is Young People but this is covered by the work of the 'v' project. A third area is Priority Neighbourhoods but this will be built into the work of the Neighbourhood Workers employed under NIs 1, 2 and 4, as part of their involvement with Neighbourhood Management.

A Volunteering Innovations Fund is also suggested to pilot ideas around recruitment. This has proved invaluable to develop and the Volunteering in Sport initiative in LAA1 through the Leicestershire Volunteer Centre Network. The nationally recognised Network has worked to secure sustainable funding for projects like those mentioned above and improved consistency across Leicestershire.

OUTCOME DELIVERY PLAN CONTENTS

SCS / LAA Outcome

Well-supported volunteering opportunities are provided within and by the community.

LAA Indicator, Baseline and Targets

National Indicator 6 Participation in regular volunteering

The baseline for this indicator is to be established in spring 2009 via the Place Survey. The target will be a 5% increase.

Geographic Area Covered	County wide	Yes
	Other	Emphasis will be on Priority Neighbourhoods and, particularly, "hard to involve" sections of the community.
Any District or local targets		None

Outcome Delivery Lead Officer	Martin Gage (Chief Executive, NWLCVS) until the new Volunteer Network Co-ordinator in place.
Outcome Delivery Partnership(s)	Leicestershire Stronger Communities Board

What do we do now to deliver the outcome?

Please give a brief description of the current approach used to deliver the outcome/target and the partners involved. Estimate of current resources used.

In LAA1 this approach led to the achievement of the Older Persons target around support to Older people, initiatives taken with Sport that lead to Leicestershire being commended for its relationship between the sports partnership and volunteering, the awarding of a contract to deliver the Youth Volunteering V project to the Volunteer Centre network and the achievement of higher quality standards in volunteering for the Community Service department of the County Council involving a volunteer coordination post. All of which will be built on in LAA2 along with initiatives with the Police and with the economic theme amongst others.

What options are there to deliver on the new target?

The options suggested to achieving the outcome/targets – what new interventions/services could be commissioned?

Several elements are being suggested:

- Work to develop new types of volunteering opportunities
- New work to increase consistency in quality of volunteering, especially in the area of diversity.
- Commissioning work
- Work to help widen participation in volunteering, from identification of under represented groups
- Exploration of new ways to convey positive messages about volunteering
- A Co-ordinator role to lead on the above work and volunteering across the Local Area Agreement.

What could we stop doing, do less of or better to focus on this target?

What options are there for reconfiguring or decommissioning other services to refocus on the priority outcome?

Work to increase quality and consistency across existing volunteering is the primary focus. Increased funding would enable resource for additional development work and volunteering opportunities.

This work is not covered by core funding for volunteering in Leicestershire. The added value this work brings is to work with statutory partners on volunteering potential, which is not core funded work.

What alternative providers exist?

Commissioning – what alternative delivery agencies or partners exist?

The Voluntary and Community Sector is best placed to maintain lead roles. Specific organisations will be determined by the Voluntary and Community Sector Infrastructure Review process.

What is the recommended approach and reasons why?

Options appraisal and recommendations on preferred option. Also include the extent to which the approach will contribute to other SCS/LAA outcomes?

Partnership work through the Co-ordinator in the first Local Area Agreement has added value to the work of the Volunteer Centre Network. This work has brought success and learning such as, funding for the V-project.

The Coordinator will be Lead Officer for Volunteering and will be responsible for initiating ideas for new volunteering opportunities with statutory bodies or groups of their clientele (eg Older people), ensuring good practice in supporting volunteers and coordinating promotion of volunteering through statutory bodies such as libraries, schools, health centres, parish councils, and village websites.

In this way statutory partners can be enabled to develop new volunteering opportunities and ensure high quality support to volunteers.

The legacy of this post can be illustrated by the appointment of a Volunteers Coordinator in the Community Services department of the County Council to support their volunteers in County parks, Museums and so on.

The youth volunteering work carried out through the "V" project does include work in schools.

Private Sector employee volunteering is facilitated by Leicestershire Cares and it is hoped they will be an active partner in the Alliance referred to in this paper.

What is delivery of the target dependent on?

Include the assumptions being made in terms of preferred delivery option?

Delivery of the target will be dependent on the County Infrastructure Organisation. Also, initiatives will need to be wide spread as measurement of the indicator for this Local Area Agreement will be across the whole County rather than in target areas.

What are the risks to delivery?

Include Key Risks to Delivery – likelihood/impact on target delivery and action required to mitigate.

A key risk to delivery would be an imbalance of volunteering opportunities and volunteers. This risk will be addressed from the outset and through monitoring and appropriate action. There is also a risk around the relationship of the Stronger Communities work with the strategy of whoever becomes the Countywide Infrastructure Organisation.

Milestones/Timescales – Outline Implementation Plan

Include key delivery actions and milestones – by when?

April 2009 Staff in post – Coordinator begins discussions theme by theme, identifying potential areas for volunteering development. Other staff in Voluntary Actions then take forward the work with individual statutory partners, their departments or with partnerships.

April - May 2009 Baseline generated from the 2008 Place Survey

April 2009-March 2011 On-going development work with Leicestershire Together partners.

October 2010 Place Survey

What resources are being provided by Lead/Partner Agencies.

County Infrastructure Organisation will lead on volunteering, identifying volunteering opportunities and promoting these. The Co-ordinator role will enable development work. The added value this work brings is to work with statutory partners on volunteering potential, which is not core funded work.

Financial and other resources (if any) sought from LT for delivery?

Please provide estimate of costs and new resources required to deliver on preferred option.

Included in this budget is the outstanding £60,000 for this year's work that was led unfunded and fed into this process.

A draft budget is shown below:

Function	LAA Indicator	Funding 2008-09	Funding 2009-10	Funding 2010-11
Volunteering support across the LAA *	6	£60,000	£104,000	£104,000
Stronger Communities Co-ordinator	1, 2, 4 & 6 + LI on Parish Councils	-	£10,000	£10,000
TOTAL		£60,000	£114,000	£114,000

* Annual Budget

Volunteer Coordinator	£30,000
Administration support (16 hours)	£5,000
Overheads, Management	£9,000
Project costs	£10,000
Targeted recruitment (3x10,000)	£30,000
Initiatives fund	£20,000
Total	£104,000

Who is involved?

Agencies that will be involved in contributing to target delivery.

The Voluntary and Community Sector will lead on this indicator through the County Infrastructure Organisation.

What contributions are expected from partner agencies?

Any other Leicestershire Together partners could potentially be involved. An alliance of council departments plus other agencies will be formed to promote volunteering, develop opportunities and develop high standards.

Contributions expected from partner agencies include staff time and a willingness to engage new opportunities. There is also potential for a 'partnership pot' of funding, to which all Leicestershire Together partners are invited to contribute.

What are the communication channels?

Identify arrangements to communicate progress on the outcomes.

The Co-ordinator role will lead on this indicator and report to the Stronger Communities Board which feeds into Leicestershire Together.