

Institute of Public Sector Management - AGM

19th September 2007

Notes from the facilitated session

Facilitator: Simon Pomfret (Spirals)

Experience of Local Strategic Partnerships and Local Area Agreements

Following the presentation from the Assistant Director (GOWM) there was a facilitated session to discuss peoples' experience of Local Strategic Partnerships and Local Area Agreements. The group was asked to use the following framework for their feedback.

Green (things that have worked well)

- Local themes and issues have been translated into actions
- It has been a learning experience
- Provided a focus that did not exist before
- Forced partners to work together
- Required an 'evidence based' approach to target setting
- Provided a focus for elected Members
- Required the LSP's to be re-structured
- The Community Strategies have been used
- Range of partners working together
- Strong leadership from the Local Authorities - 'charismatic'
- County-wide working
- Made partnership working central for Local Authorities

Amber (not quite right, some concerns)

- Some important functions have been missed out
- There is a problem with following up ideas
- Not clear if some people are representing themselves or their groups
- How sustainable is partnership working - if the approach is changing?
- Good relationships are in place but not yet working together
- The pooling of funding is a challenge i.e. how do we manage a 'single pot'?
- Need 'political buy - in' from beginning by involving the elected Members not just the Officers
- Could do more to involve the Third Sector - 'Compact' is in place
- Tends to be Council led - some confusion for the public / accountability
- Needs better communication and processes to feed-back
- Not much awareness within the local communities
- Could lose funding if it is a low deprivation area i.e. 'safe and stronger funding'
- The lack of clarity about what funding is available is making districts jittery

Red (not working, needs improving)

- The LAA Blocks are too restrictive
- Some themes were after thoughts and not properly thought through
- Needs to be a 'bottom up' up process not 'top down' e.g. policy design needs to be consultative
- The Local Authority focus did not encourage other partners to be involved
- There was a lack of recognition of the Third Sector's role - need to use this opportunity
- Local Strategic Partnerships tend to follow Council agendas
- There was a lack of engagement with the Third Sector
- Not clear who provides the funding for the Local Strategic Partnerships
- There is a lack of business representation, not clear how this should be done - accountability?
- New deal for community money has affected the picture - what happens when the money runs out?
- Not enough time and lack of communication with the public