

Learning and Skills Improvement Service **Partners in place - creating the future**

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Partners in Place - creating the future

- The next phase of public service reform
- The role of place in policy making
- The role and contribution of FE



- Places are different: respond to specific local needs
- People's needs do not come in penny packets: join up for personalisation and efficiency
- People have energy and creativity to bring to the party: find ways to release it
- Only so much will happen through serendipity: you need legitimate local leadership

In practice... the Local Government Performance Framework

Based on a long term vision for the place

Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs) - local councils and other agencies which provide the forum to create a shared vision and sense of priorities

Underpinned by the **duty to cooperate (2007)** to ensure agencies are engaged, and the **duty to involve (2009)** to ensure that people have greater opportunities to influence decision-making

Local Area Agreements (LAAs) set out the priorities for the area, agreed between central government, local authorities and their partners, through the LSP, to improve services and the quality of life in a place.

Multi Area Agreements (MAAs) allow groups of local authorities to work together to deliver shared priorities and negotiate additional freedoms and flexibilities

Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) which will be reported annually for each local area.

- **198 National Indicators** of which each LAA agrees up to 35 as priorities
- 5 key indicators on skills and qualifications
- 115 localities have targeted NEETS
- 95 have prioritised the proportion of population with qualifications above Level 2
- LSC and FE College representation in LSP framework

- 7 MAAs signed, 9 in the pipeline
- Focused on economic growth
- Include employment and skills as a key theme;
- The number or proportion of working age populations qualified to at least Level 2, 3 or 4
- Interest in graduate retention;
- Engaging employers
- Working with FE and HE institutions to develop units of courses which provide people with the skills local businesses need

Regulatory and accountability arrangements to join up delivery

Comprehensive Area Assessment process to provide a joint assessment of outcomes and forward look at prospects for sustainable improvement

- brings together assessments of performance across each local area, based around risks to outcomes and management of those risks. Where outcomes are delivered with one or more local partner, CAA and the other assessment frameworks will be tailored and integrated so that local authorities have a single experience of assessment.
- External assessment and inspection are valuable mechanisms for providing challenge and assurance on local delivery. Aligning performance frameworks more closely seeks to ensure that the collective impact of sector-specific assessment activity does not distract partners from delivering on shared outcomes.
- CAA will include clear accountability for delivery of outcomes in an area - both through the organisation assessments for councils and other relevant public bodies and through identification in the area assessment of partners responsible for risks or service failures. The inspectorates propose that the public reporting of CAA will set out these assessments and also which bodies are responsible for follow-up action where improvement is needed.
- Where FE bodies are delivery partners for specific local priorities/targets (e.g. LAAs), this will be reflected in the relevant CAA assessments. The FE accountability framework will thus provide a key source of evidence for CAA.

Is this softer or harder on poor performance?

Implies a willingness to share responsibility for the system as a whole – in two dimensions

- the national education and training system
- local public services and the public realm

What story is FE telling itself on the history and future of its relations with local government?

How will this new settlement handle real-terms reductions in expenditure?