

LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT (UPDATE)

1. The attached schedule shows the latest state of play in terms of negotiating with Government Office North East (GONE), as at 10 March 2008.
2. As Members of the Partnership will see, GONE have now proposed a further five indicators in relation to Safer Communities for consideration, as shown in red, i.e. NI19, 32,38,42 and 111.
3. The schedule currently shows 36 Indicators in black (i.e. agreed) and a further 7 in red (i.e. under negotiation), therefore exceeding the maximum of 35. This is to allow for attrition as the process of target negotiation unfolds i.e. there will in effect be a long list of 40 or more to be reduced to 35 or less.
4. In respect of these latest proposals from GONE, feedback has been offered as follows
 - a) NI 38 is preferred to NI 42 (GONE wanted us to include one or the other), because NI 38 is an objective measure rather than a further perception based indicator (and NI 42 is in any case a sub set of NI 17, which is already agreed for inclusion).
 - b) NI 111 is preferred to NI 19 (again, GONE wanted us to include one or the other), because reducing First Time Entrants is a more effective long-term strategy than reducing re-offending and puts the focus on early intervention, and because NI 111 is an established Indicator with a trend already available.
 - c) NI 32 is not supported, because the GONE rationale for its inclusion appears to be that Stockton shows a relatively high level of domestic violence as a proportion of all recorded violent crime, whereas there are very good grounds for believing that localities with higher recorded levels of domestic violence are performing better, in terms of uncovering the extent of the problem. GONE representatives have mentioned the possibility of providing a rationale in more detail but this has not yet been forthcoming.
5. If these comments are taken on board by GONE then there would be 6 Safer Communities Indicators still 'in the running' i.e. National Indicators 15,17, 33, 38, 40 (DAT would be the 'owner' for this one, as previously reported) and 111 (classified by GONE as falling under 'Children & Young People').