



Calderdale District: Area Assessment

The 'Emerging Picture': 19th May 2009

Context for this 'Emerging Picture'

- largely based on the impressions of the Audit Commission and published reports from other regulators.
- not a definitive view, but a 'starting point' for dialogue with LSP partners and regulators as we amend and refine the key issues.
- one element of the dialogue will be to compare and contrast with the LSP's informal self evaluation.
- first published Area Assessment in November 2009, along with organisational assessments of the Council, PCT, Police and the Fire and Rescue service.

Calderdale – context and challenges

- population of just over 200,000 projected to grow significantly over the next 20 years with more older people, but fewer teenagers - the ethnic minority population of nine per cent has a younger age profile than the borough average
- area of great contrasts, rural and urban
- the economy moving from traditional industries and manufacturing to one based more on financial and service sectors, including creative industries and tourism
- Calderdale's economy has done well in recent years – economically active people, professionals and number of people receiving benefits are all close to the national average
- the overall position masks significant variation, and Calderdale has been assessed as one of the ten areas most vulnerable to the credit crunch
- health is similar to the England average for most indicators, but deaths from smoking and early deaths from heart disease and stroke are higher
- health inequalities by gender, deprivation and ethnicity. Women from the most deprived areas have almost seven years shorter life expectancy than those in the least deprived areas and ethnic minority children are much more likely to receive free school meals
- local partners are focusing attention on improving engagement with and access to services for local people – such as new waste collection arrangements to provide more recycling opportunities

Calderdale Forward - Priorities

Draft sustainable community strategy:

“Our vision is for Calderdale to be an attractive place where people are prosperous, healthy, and safe, supported by excellent services and a place where we value everyone being different and through our actions demonstrate that everyone matters”

Seven priority outcomes.....

- *Safeguarding Calderdale's future and fostering economic prosperity for all*
- *Improve the quality of our environment and promote respect for Calderdale's heritage*
- *Prosper as a place where people can feel safe and are encouraged to get involved in shaping their future*
- *Reduce the amount of preventable ill-health across the population as a whole*
- *Ensure that people stay in control of their lives and play a full and active role in society*
- *Flourish as a place where every child and young person thrives, is safe and happy*
- *Work to ensure that the differences in health, quality of life and economic prosperity between different communities in Calderdale reduce.*

Public sector spending in Calderdale District

- Spending on services for the people of Calderdale District by the Council and PCT alone amount to over £450m in 2008/09.
- *Are you clear about how total public sector resources (mainstream and additional government grants) are improving quality of life for people in Calderdale?*

Some positives about living in Calderdale....

As a young person you:

- Are more likely to achieve good GCSE results than elsewhere in the country
- Are less likely to be obese as a young child or be absent from your primary school
- Are more likely to stay on in education beyond the age of 16 than other young people in West Yorkshire

As an older person you:

- Are likely to be able to live independently

As a person with mental health problems or learning disabilities you:

- Are likely to be supported to maintain your independence – at home and work.
- Are likely to receive personalised care.

As a citizen you:

- Are less likely to suffer the effects of multiple deprivation than previously
- Are likely to receive good support if you are homeless
- Will be experiencing less crime than previously
- Are more satisfied with Calderdale as a place to live than 2 years ago
- Are more likely to live longer than any previous generation!

What the data tells us – the challenges!

Life for a young person in the Park, Ovenden and Mixenden wards is indicative of other deprived communities in Calderdale. Compared with other areas you:

- are more likely to have a low birth weight (Park)
- are much more likely to die in your infancy than other children in West Yorkshire and the rest of the country - all age, all cause mortality rates are 40% and 31% higher in Ovenden and Park than rest of district– heart disease and stroke may well be the cause of death
- more likely to be unemployed - at April 2009, unemployment much higher in Ovenden, Park and Illingworth and Mixenden, but rate of increase since January much less in Park (35%) than Calderdale average (92%)
- much less likely to get good GCSEs (27.7% 5 x A-C including M&E in Ovenden compared to 50.3% Calderdale average)
- are less likely to be in education, training or employment (Mixenden and Ovenden)
- are less satisfied with your local environment and street cleansing (Park) but more satisfied in Ovenden and Mixenden
- Increasingly feel you can influence local decisions, but are not always treated with respect and consideration by local services
- feel safer during the day and night than people in other areas, but less safe than in 2007 – domestic violence is also a major issue

We use this as an example throughout to help bring the 'emerging picture' to life!

**So, using the £450m+ of public funding,
how are you making a positive
difference.....for example, to the life
and future prospects of a young person
in Park, Ovenden or Mixenden?**

How well do local partners understand the needs and aspirations of their diverse communities?

- There is a good match between the LAA priorities, areas of poor performance and resident priorities identified in the 2006/07 User Survey

Issues to be further explored are:

- Has the 'Place Survey' altered this picture significantly?
- How well do the partners understand the diversity of the community and the impact of this on inequality?
- How well are the aspirations of different communities and communities of interest being met?
- How effective are the recently formed area panels?
- How have communities been involved in assessing whether priority outcomes have been delivered?
- How effective have local partners been in sharing information, coordinating engagement and communicating the impact of their decisions?
- What has changed as a result of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment?
- What progress have Partners made towards strategic commissioning and particularly engagement of the Voluntary and Community Sector? (poor result from 3rd sector survey)

Safeguarding Calderdale's future and fostering economic prosperity for all

- Calderdale's economy has done well in recent years, but now assessed as one of the ten areas most vulnerable to the effects of the credit crunch – latest data such as claimant count suggests area is suffering
- Calderdale has a higher than average percentage of adults with low or outdated skills
- 30% of the working population do not hold a level 2 qualification and only 23.5% hold a Level 4

- **Have partners identified clear priorities for combating the recession and how is the new economic strategy assisting this?**
- **Are partners providing effective support, for local people and businesses in most need?**
- **Is action by partners being effectively 'joined up'?**
- **How have priorities for supporting dynamic and vibrant town centres been affected? How will you measure success?**
- **What progress is being made on developing skill levels – progress on the proposed University and matching skills to available jobs?**

How is worklessness in deprived neighbourhoods being tackled?

Prosper as a place where people can feel safe and are encouraged to get involved in shaping their future

- Overall levels of crime are higher than national averages but similar to other areas like Calderdale. Rates are reducing but the recent rates of reduction have not kept pace with family and national averages
 - Against this picture of general reductions in crime, fear of crime, public confidence, ASB and race crime remain as significant issues.
 - **Will partner actions increase the rate of improvement on community safety relative to others?**
 - **How effective is the partnership approach to tackling substance misuse and providing activities for young people?**
 - **Are partners making progress in building cohesion and the Prevent agenda?**
- *What activities are there for young people in deprived neighbourhoods – are they victims of race and hate crime?*

Reduce the amount of preventable ill-health across the population as a whole

- Male life expectancy is significantly below average
- Female life expectancy target unlikely to be met
- Life expectancy is lowest in the more deprived areas, with inequalities by gender, deprivation and ethnicity
- Deaths from smoking, heart disease and stroke are higher than average
- Interventions are having an impact - smoking, breast feeding
- **What progress is being made to reduce health inequalities?**
- **Healthy Halifax - are measures to increase physical activity having an impact?**

Is support being targeted effectively on that young person in Ovenden?

Improve the quality of our environment and promote respect for Calderdale's heritage

- recycling rates have improved and streets are cleaner, but not compared to many other areas
- rents in much of the private rented sector are unaffordable for people on low incomes
- demand for social rented housing is increasing, but supply is decreasing.
- much private housing stock is in poor condition and is not energy efficient
- 17 per cent of Calderdale residents experience fuel poverty

- **Will the new arrangement for waste collection and management deliver intended improvements in performance and value for money?**
- **are the recent improvements in street cleaning sustainable?**
- **what are partners doing to improve housing conditions for the most vulnerable?**
- **are links being made between improving housing and wider regeneration activity?**

- *What about that young person in Park – are their streets clean and safe to play on? Is their home decent?*

Improve the quality of our environment and promote respect for Calderdale's heritage (2)

- The number of children killed or seriously injured on Calderdale's roads reduced in 2008, following significant rises in recent years.
- NI167 – congestion/average journey time per mile is set to increase

- **What are partners doing to relieve traffic congestion/encourage more use of public transport and make the roads safer? Will local people notice the difference if the LAA congestion target is met?**
- **How are partners working together to reduce carbon emissions and use renewable energy within their own organisations and within the wider population?**
- **What is partners' overall approach to climate change mitigation and adaptation – are carbon footprints known?**
- **What is progress on the Cultural Strategy and is it making a difference to peoples' quality of life?**

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>What about that young person in Mixenden – are they safe on the roads?</i> |
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Flourish as a place where every child and young person thrives, is safe and happy

- 'Systemic failures' in child protection arrangements identified in recent serious case reviews
 - Weaknesses in time taken to assess children in need - the number of initial assessments completed within target timescales continues to decline
 - NI69 - Children who have experienced bullying. Baseline 39% falling to (target of) 30% by 2010/11. Forecast is 49.1%
 - Arrest Referral Scheme uncovered 45 cases of child sexual exploitation and provided subsequent support and intervention for girls and their families
 - **What are partners doing to address these serious issues?**
 - **Are incidences of child sexual exploitation in line with similar areas?**
- *What about that young person in Park – are they safe at home or bullied at school?*

Work to ensure that the differences in health, quality of life and economic prosperity between different communities in Calderdale reduce

Narrowing the gap against a set of key indicators by 2020 is a clear partner commitment

- Current performance shows inequality by gender, deprivation and ethnicity on a range of the 'desired outcome' indicators including life expectancy, educational attainment, skills levels, Young people NEET, fear of crime, worklessness
- **We need a clear picture of the baselines used by partners for these key indicators, how these translate into measurable targets for 2020 and what that means in terms of annual performance against target (especially where these are not covered by LAA indicators)**

- *What about that young person in Ovenden – how does their life and prospects compare to a child living in Hebden Bridge?*

Capacity to deliver

- Are planned activities making a difference to outcomes?
How do you know?
- Are resources (mainstream and additional government grant) targeted to meet community needs and aspirations? i.e. *What about that young person in Park, Ovenden and Mixenden?*
- How effective is local delivery/neighbourhood management?
- How engaged are all partners? e.g. VCS and the private sector
- Are Partners using their collective resources efficiently?

Strengths – Children and Young people?

- Primary school children made better than average progress and achieved higher than average standards at the end of Key Stage 2. Good improvements in English and science.
- Increase in children attaining 5 GCSE grades at A-C , exceeding both the regional and national rates of improvement.
- Reduction in young people not in full time education or training from 10.8% in 2007 to 8.9% in 2008
- Good progress on teenage conceptions (49.5% to 37.4% per 1000 pop 2006/2007) – best improver

- **Can this be maintained and improvement demonstrated in the few areas of weaker performance?**
- **Can performance in deprived communities and amongst ethnic minority children be improved at a greater rate than the rest of the district?**
- **Are well-educated and trained young people being retained in the local area/economy?**

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>What about that young person in Ovenden – will they get 5 good GCSEs?</i> |
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Strengths? - Youth and ASB initiatives

Two examples of notable practice were included as case studies in Audit Commission National Study - Tired of Hanging around

- Using sport and leisure activities to prevent anti-social behaviour by young people. Extended youth engagement and rural detached team using a bus to deliver youth work to young people in remote areas where there are no local authority buildings available
- There have been improvements in levels of anti-social behaviour and fewer calls to the police
- **Are facilities and services consistent in quality and accessibility across the district and for all ages? (Tellus3 survey suggests this is a priority for young people that is not being met)**
- **Are examples of notable practice on ASB being applied more widely in Calderdale?**

- *What about that young person in Mixenden – are there enough activities to keep them fully occupied?*

Strengths? – People stay in control of their lives

- good progress to support vulnerable adults and support independent living
- significant improvement in the proportion of older people receiving care packages within timescales
- reduction in the number of older people admitted to residential and nursing care
- positive working relationships with health, including joint planning and commissioning arrangements
- payment of benefits and waiting times for adaptations don't compare well with other areas
- **How effective is partners' approach to helping all older people lead active and fulfilled lives?**
- **What is being done to improve benefits performance and to reduce waiting times for adaptations to help older people live independently at home – what is reason for poor performance?**

- *What about that young person in Park – one of their family is twice as likely to be receiving benefits compared to the Calderdale average*

Next steps!

- Refine this 'Picture'
 - Join up assessment with other regulators
 - Incorporate key messages from National Indicators and the Place Survey
 - compare and contrast with the LSP's informal self evaluation.
 - engage with you on these issues to fill the gaps in our knowledge, enhance our understanding and develop where possible a shared view on the key issues.
 - ongoing dialogue but revisit with the LSP in June/July.