



Local Area Agreements – improving performance through the natural environment

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Aim of the presentation



- Background to Local Area Agreements
- Background to National Indicators
- Natural England work
- The National Indicator List
- Look at the indicators chosen by each Local Authority in the region
- Look at the menu of options that Natural England has available
- Which options can achieve each National Indicator
- Barnsley – a case study

What are Local Area Agreements



- Local Area Agreements (LAAs) set out the priorities for a local area agreed between central government and a local area (the local authority and Local Strategic Partnership) and other key partners at the local level.
- LAAs simplify some central funding, and help join up public services more effectively and allow greater flexibility for local solutions to local circumstances.
- LAAs are helping to devolve decision making, move away from a 'Whitehall knows best' philosophy and reduce bureaucracy.
- LAAs set out the local priorities that will make towns, cities or communities a better place to be; they have been negotiated between all the main public sector organisations in each area, the local authority and central Government.

Background to National Indicators



- The National Indicator (NI) set for local authorities and local authority partnerships was announced as part of the Chancellor's Comprehensive Spending Review in 2007.
- The NIs are the only means of measuring national priorities that have been agreed by Government.
- The number of national indicators has been radically reduced, from the around 1200 to 198 (199 from April 2009).
- The indicators are intended to strengthen the incentives for closer partnership working to deliver joined-up outcomes because they apply (where relevant) to other local partners such as Natural England.
- The current set of NIs is being reviewed and there is a proposal for a new Defra NI for 'People and Access' for the next LAA performance round starting April 2011.

Natural England engagement with LSPs



- There are 15 LAAs in Yorkshire & the Humber Region
- Engagement with LSPs so far has been unplanned
- Too many partnerships for Natural England to resource
- Need to prioritise our interventions

Why the natural environment is important



- England's natural environment matters to us all. The beauty and wonder of our landscapes and wildlife inspire and enrich our lives, and are an important part of our national identity and sense of place.
- The natural environment provides a range of important benefits for people, described as ecosystem services, which contribute to our wellbeing. These include clean water, healthy food, timber, renewable energy, flood and carbon management, genetic diversity and the biodiversity and landscapes that support recreation, tourism and healthy lifestyles.
- The natural environment also underpins much of our economic activity, and supports many aspects of our social and cultural lives. It is therefore very important that the natural environment is fully valued in economic and social decisions.

NIs with links to Natural England's work



- We have identified 23 of the 199 National Indicators which we consider have links to our work in promoting a healthy natural environment that people are able to access and enjoy.

- Look at the links between the various LAAs in the region and Natural England's priorities. Set out a number of initiatives that we are promoting, which if adopted by local authorities would help them achieve the priorities they have established in their LAA.
- Identify those LAAs with the most significant cross over to our priorities to help us ensure we best deploy staff resources in this area.
- The cross over between our work and the LSPs falls broadly into three groups:
 1. Our health agenda
 2. Getting people involved
 3. Environmental sustainability
- Many of the initiatives we promote cut across these groups

- NI 2 Percentage of people who feel that they belong to their neighbourhood (Not chosen)
- NI 3 Civic participation in the local area
- NI 4 % of people who feel they can influence decisions in their locality
- NI 5 Overall/general satisfaction with local area
- NI 6 Participation in regular volunteering
- NI 7 Environment for a thriving third sector
- NI 8 Adult participation in sport and active recreation

Be Healthy

- NI 50 Emotional health of children
- NI 55 Obesity among primary school age children in Reception Year
- NI 56 Obesity among primary school age children in Year 6
- NI 57 Children and young people's participation in high quality PE and sport

Enjoy and Achieve

- NI 83 Achievement at level 5 or above in Science at Key Stage 3

Making a Positive Contribution

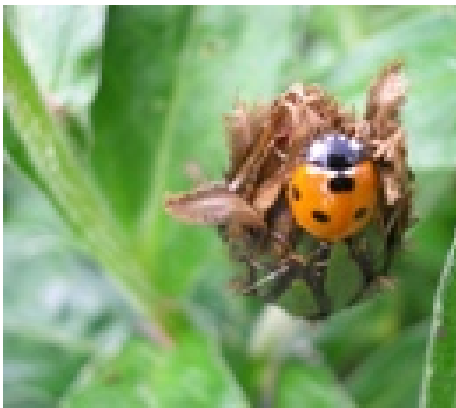
- NI 110 Young people's participation in positive activities

- NI 119 Self-reported measure of people's overall health and well-being (Not chosen)
- NI 137 Healthy life expectancy at age 65
- NI 138 Satisfaction of people over 65 with both home and neighbourhood

Local Economy

- NI 170 Previously developed land that has been vacant or derelict for more than 5 years (Not chosen)
- NI 175 Access to services and facilities by public transport, walking and cycling

- NI 186 Per capita reduction in CO2 emissions in LA area
- NI 188 Adapting to Climate Change
- NI 197 Improved local biodiversity – active management of local sites
- NI 198 Children travelling to school – mode of travel usually used
- NI 199 (from April 2009) Children and young people’s satisfaction with parks and play areas (Not chosen)



Yorkshire & Humber chosen NI's



The most popular indicators by Local Authorities in the region are:

- NI 4 12 Local Authorities
(NI 4 % of people who feel they can influence decisions in their locality)
- NI 186 9 Local Authorities
- NI 110, 56, 7, 8 8 Local Authorities
- NI 57 6 Local Authorities
- NI 5, 188, 137 3 Local Authorities
- NI 197, 175, 55, 50, 6, 3 2 Local Authorities
- NI 198, 138 1 Local Authority
- NI 199, 170, 2 0 Local Authorities

- These fall into two categories:
 - Children and younger people
 - Adult health and well-being
- These health related NIs aim to improve the quality of life for people in the most disadvantaged neighbourhoods, reducing inequality by improving long term health and life skills that increase the likelihood of employability.
- This ultimately improves life chances and helps to break the cycle of deprivation for children, young people, families and communities.

Using the natural environment to improve people's health



- Natural England believes that the provision of new and improved parks, woodlands and other green spaces is essential to improve the health of people today and in the future.
- We want to work with local authorities, planners, developers, and the National Health Service to achieve this goal.
- The connection between better health and access to green space has been established as it is considered that people are more active if they live within an attractive natural environment.
- People also feel better in a good quality natural environment, which is better for their mental health.

Medical evidence linking health with the natural environment



- Recent guidance by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) is helping to encourage more GPs and Community Nurses to refer patients to outdoor activity sessions to improve their well-being.
- An Ipsos/MORI poll carried out for Natural England in 2008 revealed that 94 per cent of the population thought this to be a good idea.
- A survey in March 2009 showed that walking in natural spaces, such as parks or woodlands, was considered the most convenient and attractive form of exercise by 88 per cent of respondents.

Getting more people out walking

- Walking the Way to Health initiative (WHI)
- The National Step-o-Meter Programme (NSP)

Green Exercise

- NHS Alliance pathway pilots
- The Physical Activity Care Pathway

National Nature Reserves and Health

- National Nature Reserves
- Local Nature Reserves



Walking the Way to Health Initiative



- It aims to encourage people to take regular short health walks in their local communities, particularly sedentary people and those in relatively poor health.
- We support a network of local health walk schemes across England, offering support and advice, training for walk leaders, public liability insurance, an accreditation quality mark, evaluation and free materials to help promote walking.
- WHI has trained more than 37,000 walk leaders and now supports more than 525 led health walk schemes; more than 2,500 walks per week; and more than 20,000 regular walkers every week.
- Our 525 led health walk schemes offer walks from beginner level with risk assessed routes and trained walk leaders. They are fun, free and supportive. Experience tells us that once people have tried the walks, they tend to stick with them.

- NI 8 Adult participation in sport and active recreation
 - Sport and active recreation are the sport and recreation activities as measured in the Active People Survey (including for example recreational walking and recreational cycling).
- NI 56 Obesity among primary school age children in Year 6
 - Obesity is caused by two simple factors - an unhealthy diet (typically too rich in sugar and fats and not enough fibre and carbohydrate) and not doing enough exercise to burn off the calories consumed.

- NI 119 Self-reported measure of people's overall health and well-being
 - The health status 'very good' or 'good' is taken from the response to the self-reported health and wellbeing question 'How is your health in general? Would you say it is 'very good', 'good', 'fair' 'bad' or 'very bad'?'
- NI 137 Healthy life expectancy at age 65
 - Regular walking can reduce the risk of coronary heart disease, diabetes, stroke, high blood pressure, cancer, osteoporosis and arthritis. It can help deal with anxiety and stress, and may reduce the risk of Alzheimer's disease.

Walking the Way to Health Initiative & NIs



- NI 186 Per capita reduction in CO2 emissions in LA area
 - In the UK, 50% of all car journeys are for less than 2 miles, which suggests we have lost the habit of walking or cycling short journeys.
- NI 188 Adapting to Climate Change
 - The indicator measures progress on assessing and managing climate risks and opportunities, and incorporating appropriate action into local authority and partners' strategic planning.

The National Step-o-Meter Programme (NSP)



- The main objectives of this programme are to increase levels of walking in sedentary, hard to reach and 'at risk' groups.
- To increase use of Step-o-Meters across the NHS as a motivational tool.
- To increase awareness of the Chief Medical Officer's recommendation that every adult should undertake at least 30 minutes of moderate activity on at least five days a week.
- To demonstrate how incremental increases in daily step counting through goal setting can be used as an effective and realistic introduction to physical activity.

NHS Alliance pathway pilots



- Frontline healthcare professionals are key to identifying sedentary people and supporting them to do more physical activity.
- Natural England is trialling patient care plans (or 'pathways') that involve physical activity in the natural environment. This means getting the natural environment formally incorporated as part of the therapeutic and preventative treatment of sedentary patients. Six pilot projects are now underway in primary care settings.

Getting involved

Getting people involved

- Naturalist Activity Badge for cubs and scouts
- Gardening with wildlife in mind
- Ordnance Survey Maps for Children
- Green Award
- Muckin4Life
- The Green Flag Award



The Green Flag Award



- **A welcoming place**
 - **Healthy, safe and secure**
 - **Clean and well maintained**
 - **Sustainability**
 - **Conservation and heritage**
 - **Community involvement**
 - **Marketing**
 - **Management**
-
- **The 8 criteria offer ways to involve local people, provide opportunities for them to be physically and mentally active and improve the local natural environment.**

The Green Flag Award



- NI 2 Percentage of people who feel that they belong to their neighbourhood (Not chosen)
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(Not chosen)

- Green infrastructure differs from conventional approaches to open space planning because it considers multiple functions and benefits of greenspace in concert with land development, growth management and built infrastructure planning.
- Green infrastructure can play a positive role in achieving the objectives for clean air, water, soil, and biodiversity conservation which are needed to ensure we are living within environmental limits.
- Green infrastructure provides multi-functional uses e.g. wildlife, recreational and cultural experience, as well as delivering ecological services, such as flood protection, pollution control and moderating microclimate.
- These services are likely to be increasingly important in adapting to climate change.

LSP Thematic Partnerships

- Adults & Communities well-being – NI 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, ***7**, 119, 137, 138
- Economy & Culture – NI 8
- Safer communities
- Children's Trust – NI 50, 55, ***56**, 57, ***110**
- Economy & culture
- Sustainability – NI 170, 175, ***186**, 188, 197, 198
- Children, young people and families – NI 198, 199

***Denotes designated NI indicator**

NI 7 – Environment for a thriving third sector

NI 7

- Green Flag Award



NI 56 Obesity in primary school children in Year 6



NI 56

- Walking the Way to Health
- National Step-o-Meter programme
- Green exercise
- Muckin4Life
- Naturalist Activity Badge
- Gardening with wildlife in mind
- OS maps for children



NI 110 – Young people's participation in positive activities



NI 110

- Muckin4Life
- Green Flag Award
- Naturalist Activity Badge
- Gardening with wildlife in mind
- OS maps for children
- GI and schools

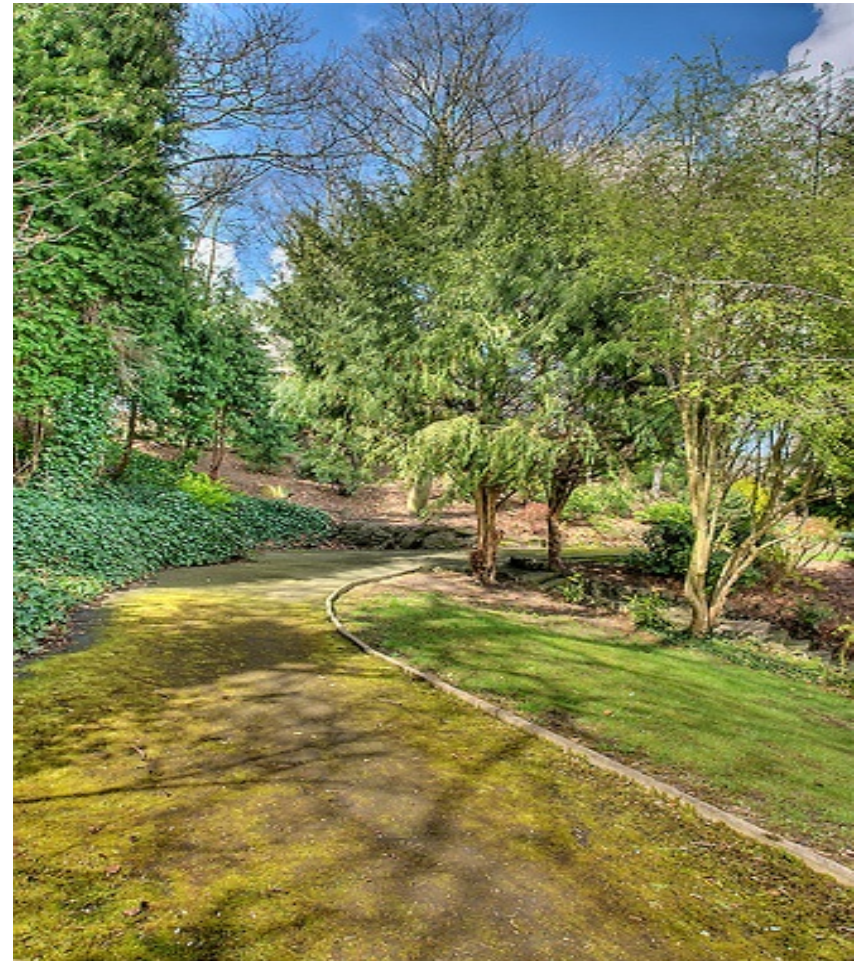


NI 186 – Per capita reduction in CO2 emissions in the LA area



NI 186

- Walking the Way to Health
- National Step-o-Meter programme
- Green exercise
- Green Flag Award
- Gardening with wildlife in mind
- Green Infrastructure creation and maintenance
- Tree planting





QUESTIONS