



# *Formative Evaluation of Community Strategies*

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*The Use of Evidence in Community Strategies*





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On 5th May 2006 the responsibilities of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) transferred to the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG)

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# Chapter 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Background

This paper is one in a series of issues papers produced as part of the Process Evaluation of Plan Rationalisation and Formative Evaluation of Community Strategies Project. The paper focuses upon the issue of evidence in community strategies.

The Policy Research Institute (Leeds Metropolitan University), together with the Centre for Economic and Social Research (Sheffield Hallam University) and Janie Percy Smith (Independent Researcher), has been commissioned by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) to undertake evaluations of plan rationalisation and community strategies. Both evaluations will be undertaken between 2004 and 2007 and will focus on assessing the effectiveness of the processes which underpin each policy area and linkages between them.

A series of outputs are planned from the evaluations (a full list of published and forthcoming outputs can be found at Annex A). These include:

- A number of **Issues Papers**, designed to be short policy orientated papers highlighting key research and policy issues.
- **Good practice** guidance on community strategies.
- **Annual Reports** pulling together key findings and research undertaken.
- Reports on the individual elements of the evaluation, including **case studies, surveys and a review of community strategies**.

## 1.2 Aims and objectives

The aim of this paper is to outline in detail the components of a model for the use of evidence in sustainable community strategies. The paper draws on the following research undertaken as part of the Formative Evaluation of Community Strategies:

- Case studies of eight local authorities<sup>1</sup>
- A survey of all local authorities<sup>2</sup>
- A review and assessment of community strategies<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Darlow, A. Percy-Smith, J. and Wells, P. (2005), *Process Evaluation of Plan Rationalisation Formative Evaluation of Community Strategies, Annual Report* (London: ODPM) See website: [www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1162360](http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1162360)

<sup>2</sup> Darlow, A., Fidler, Y. and Wymer, P. (2005) *Process Evaluation of Plan Rationalisation Formative Evaluation of Community Strategies, Report of the December 2004 Survey of Local Authorities* (London: ODPM). See website: [www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1162357](http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1162357)

<sup>3</sup> Wells, P. and Goudie, R. (2005), *Review of Community Strategies and Detailed Assessment of 50*, (London: ODPM). See website: [www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1162354](http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1162354)

The paper is intended to provide material for DCLG published guidance on Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs) and sustainable community strategies. It also seeks to set out the range and types of evidence which may inform sustainable community strategy development. This reflects the DCLG's definition that sustainable communities are: active, inclusive and safe; well-run; environmentally sensitive; well designed and built; well connected; thriving; well served; and fair for everyone. Annex B provides details of the data which are readily available and could be drawn upon in developing sustainable community strategies.

### 1.3 Context

The consultation on the future of LSPs<sup>4</sup> (published in December 2005), drew on findings from the evaluation of community strategies and reported that *many community strategies contain little analysis of evidence to back up proposed actions. They tend to rely largely on community aspirations and make few references to available baseline data that should inform priorities for action.* However, despite this some community strategies do contain evidence which supports actions, and these are outlined in this paper.

The consultation on the future of LSPs provided an outline for how sustainable community strategies could be developed, including the use of evidence. This suggested the following steps:

#### ***Baselining current performance***

The strategy should outline a long-term vision for the area, using the definition and components of sustainable communities. This should not be a tick-box exercise, but an accurate consideration of how the components should contribute to communities with their own unique identities – a positive sense of place. It will need to be built on robust data available from such sources as the Neighbourhood Statistics and Area Profile websites, individual local partners, as well as surveys and discussions with local citizens and businesses. It needs to establish baselines where data are new and map trends and trajectories where data have been available for a while. Where possible, survey and area data should disaggregate demographic and socio economic information into race, gender, disability, faith, age and sexual orientation.

#### ***Evidence: analysis of performance and local conditions***

This vision needs to be explicitly grounded in an analysis of the local areas' needs and ideally an understanding of the totality of resources coming into the area. Forecasting is required and a medium-term plan for the next 5–10 years which builds upon the evidence and data referred to above and an evaluation of priorities identified in other local and regional partnerships' plans and strategies (including those of district LSPs in two-tier areas) should be produced. Wherever possible, it should also relate closely to Local Development Frameworks in the area, ideally using common data (e.g. from Geographical Information Systems), and common consultation mechanisms. As previously recommended by the Government, planning relating to neighbourhood renewal, culture and biodiversity should be subsumed within sustainable community strategies at this stage.

<sup>4</sup> ODPM (2005), *Local Strategic Partnerships: Shaping their future. A consultation paper.* (London: ODPM). See website: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1162320>

## 1.4 Structure of the paper

The paper firstly draws on the research findings to date in terms of how evidence is used within community strategies, particularly in terms of determining priorities and actions and in reviewing strategies. It goes on to consider what is evidence and evidence-based policy making within the context of community strategies and proposes a model for how evidence might be used for sustainable community strategies and possible sources of evidence for strategies. Good practice examples are highlighted throughout the report.



## Chapter 2. Research Findings

The findings from the evaluation of community strategies so far indicate that the main forms of evidence used are from consultations with local residents and from household surveys. Survey evidence and a review of the documents found that the use of other sources of evidence, particularly secondary data, is used far less. Some 84.7% of respondents to a survey of local authorities reported that community consultations informed their community strategy to a significant extent while 58.3% of respondents reported that local (statistical) data informed their community strategy to significant extent. These findings reflect the review of the documents themselves: consultation evidence was given far greater significance.

There were some interesting patterns here and variation between authorities. Areas in receipt of NRF assistance, upper tier authorities and unitary authorities were all more likely to draw on secondary data than lower tier districts. There was also evidence of secondary data being used extensively to inform and challenge interventions at a neighbourhood level (e.g. Barnsley). More broadly, some case study LSPs had sought to develop evidence-based decision-making (e.g. Liverpool), where the collection and analysis of evidence was a prerequisite to decision-making. However, it should be stressed that local consultation predominated approaches rather than a process which balanced consultation and the use of secondary data.

Findings from the case studies also indicated that:

- Investment in mechanisms to share data (e.g. LSP data teams, common management information systems) were very useful in sharing the costs of obtaining and analysing data and in helping to gain a shared understanding of an area.
- A commitment to communicate evidence to different groups of stakeholders was also found to be important. For example, it could be useful in consultation events to use secondary statistical data to inform discussions (e.g. Croydon). In another case, it was also found to be important to communicate key findings from evidence to internal stakeholders who may have responsibility for delivering a target.
- Conversely, the evaluation also found examples where targets had been set based on secondary data, but the realism of achieving targets had not been discussed with relevant service areas. Clearly, evidence should inform targets, but this also needs to consider organisational and resource issues.
- In one case study it was found that a ‘community scorecard’ had been developed. This was a sophisticated database which allowed information to be extracted from strategies affecting the area.

The review and assessment of community strategies found that:

- Very few community strategies included sufficient material to suggest whether evidence had been used appropriately to derive the strategy and a series of actions. Reflecting the focus of community strategies as documents to communicate the work of the LSP to local residents, most community strategies contained some evidence from household surveys. The result of this approach appeared to be to place greatest evidence on issues such as ‘fear of crime’ (even when secondary data revealed that actual crime was very low and

falling), 'young people' (i.e. either seen to be a nuisance or too few things for them to do) and the local environment.

- However, there were examples of evidence being used robustly. This included areas such as Wandsworth, Croydon and Ryedale. In these cases a range of evidence was used, including local consultation/household data, secondary data and some attempts to model the direction the local area was taking.
- Evidence in community strategies was used for three broad purposes: to set a local context; to identify how conditions might have changed; and to suggest that certain issues were more important than others.
- Many community strategies however fell back on making broad statements about the area which informed the strategy and action plan: in these cases there appeared no link between evidence and actions. For example, in an assessment of 50 community strategies, nine provided no account in any way of evidence being used: it was unclear how strategic priorities and interventions had been derived

The following were found to be the main weaknesses in the use of evidence by community strategies:

- **Actions defined without targets or evidence:** for example, in one strategy, there were actions for finding routes out of prostitution for women and for reducing domestic violence, however, all the crime targets related to vehicle crime, robbery and burglary.
- **Little or no benchmark data was used:** for example comparing the area to regional or national averages, or benchmarking against a similar area.
- A similar flaw is that around half of the strategies **did not set baselines** against which progress could be measured.
- **Strategies made assertions and set priorities with no evidence that these were genuine issues facing the area.** More specifically, there was often an unclear link between the evidence presented and the priorities and actions.
- **The quality of baselines sometimes varied between priorities.** Some seemed to have a robust evidence base (e.g. around education or crime) whilst others were more speculative (e.g. around the economy). Many strategies also had problems in defining robust health indicators, and particularly ones which could provide a more meaningful indication of progress than long lead time indicators such as life expectancy or standardised mortality rates for cancer and heart disease.

In conclusion, most community strategies have focused on using local consultation evidence. There are many examples of good practice and innovation in the ways local people and groups are consulted.<sup>5</sup> However, the use of different forms of secondary data (including nationally collected statistics, existing research, evidence from other areas or evaluation of previous activities) does not appear to have been used to any great extent. There is therefore considerable scope for the development of truly evidence-based sustainable community strategies.

<sup>5</sup> See Wells, P. and Goudie, R. (2005), *Review of Community Strategies and Detailed Assessment of 50*, (London: ODPM). See website: [www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1162354](http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1162354). See pp. 20–23 for examples.

## Chapter 3. What is Evidence and Evidence-Based Policy Making?

Evidence-based policy making should be a central component of modern local government. The use of evidence effectively should sit alongside a commitment to include the users of services, to social inclusion, greater democratic accountability and improved and more transparent financial management (other aspects of local government modernisation). Evidence may come from a range of sources, often those which can be obtained most cost effectively, and may include:

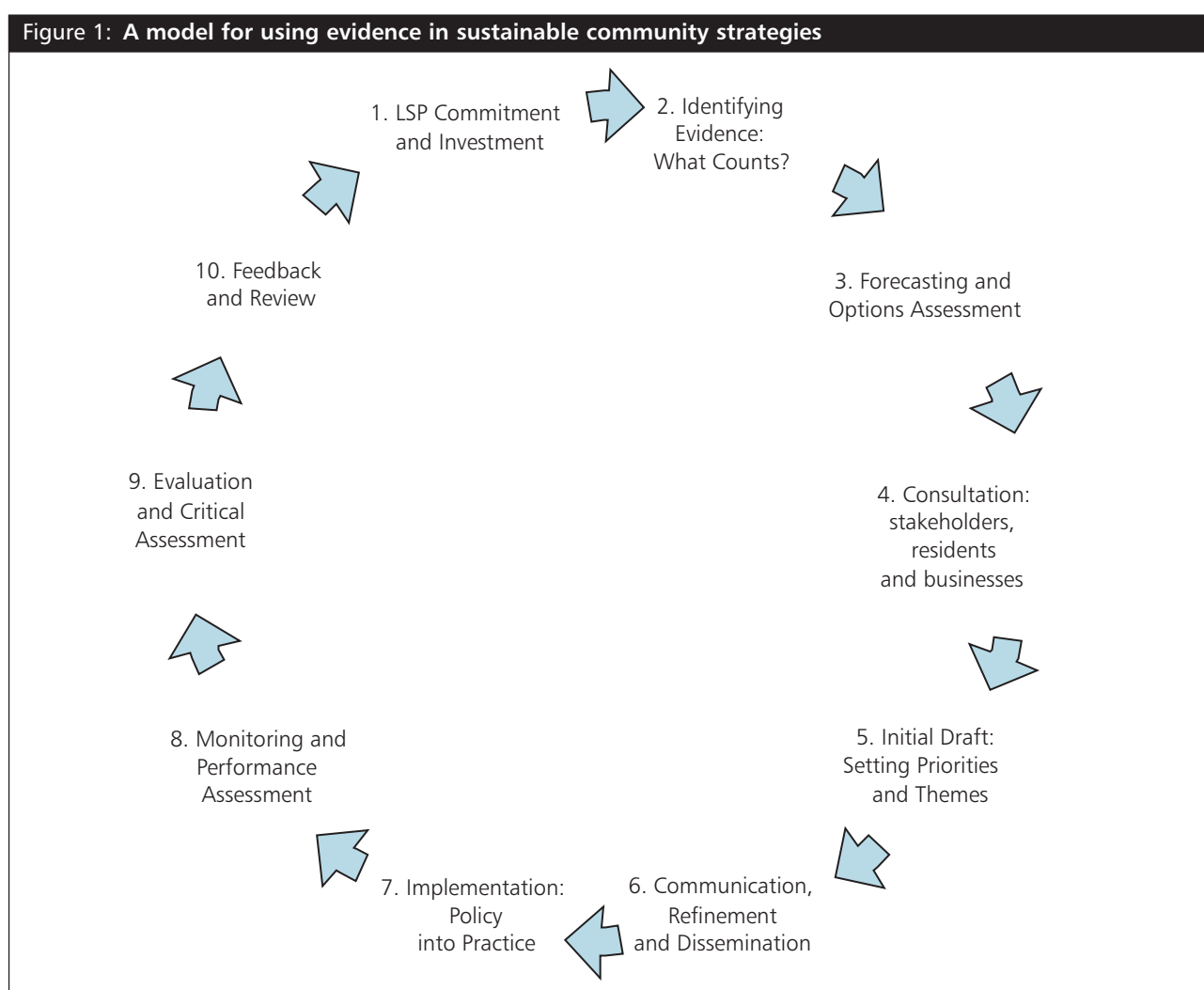
- **Existing statistics:** the main source of statistical data is central government, and in particular the Office of National Statistics (ONS). Through the ONS, data from Census, on labour markets, crime and education can be accessed.
- **Stakeholder/Resident surveys and consultations:** the main form of local statistical evidence comes from local household surveys. These can be boosted to gain a greater understanding of particular groups or be based on a (citizen's) panel which may allow for some tracking of change in an area. A clear distinction needs to be made between the consultation findings as evidence and the use of other forms of evidence for example secondary data.
- **Expert knowledge:** although not necessarily based on data, consultation and involvement of experts to develop specific aspects of strategies may help provide greater depth to statistical evidence alone.
- **Published research:** both produced locally but also drawing on national and international sources, especially to support specific interventions and strategic choices.
- **Evaluations of previous policies and initiatives:** these may inform whether interventions are continued in an area and allow for partners to learn from previous interventions.
- **Policy option assessment:** detailed assessments of different policies which reflect outline costs and the probability of outcomes being achieved.
- **Economic and statistical modeling and forecasting:** this may allow partners to understand in more detail the range of effects which external changes may bring, for example the effect of changes in economic growth.

Evidence also needs to be used dynamically to understand both complex problems (e.g. neighbourhood disadvantage) and also the inter-relationships which may exist between issues (e.g. transport and employability).

Evidence should also inform policy decisions and strategic choices: this should draw on a wide range of sources and ensure that evidence is accessible and presented in a meaningful way.

# Chapter 4. A Model for Evidence-Based Sustainable Community Strategies

This section outlines a model (see Figure 1) for evidence-based sustainable community strategies. It is intended that each step in the model would be worked through at the outset of preparing the sustainable community strategy, but that once established, the model would be used more dynamically to continually improve and challenge the priorities and actions identified for an area.

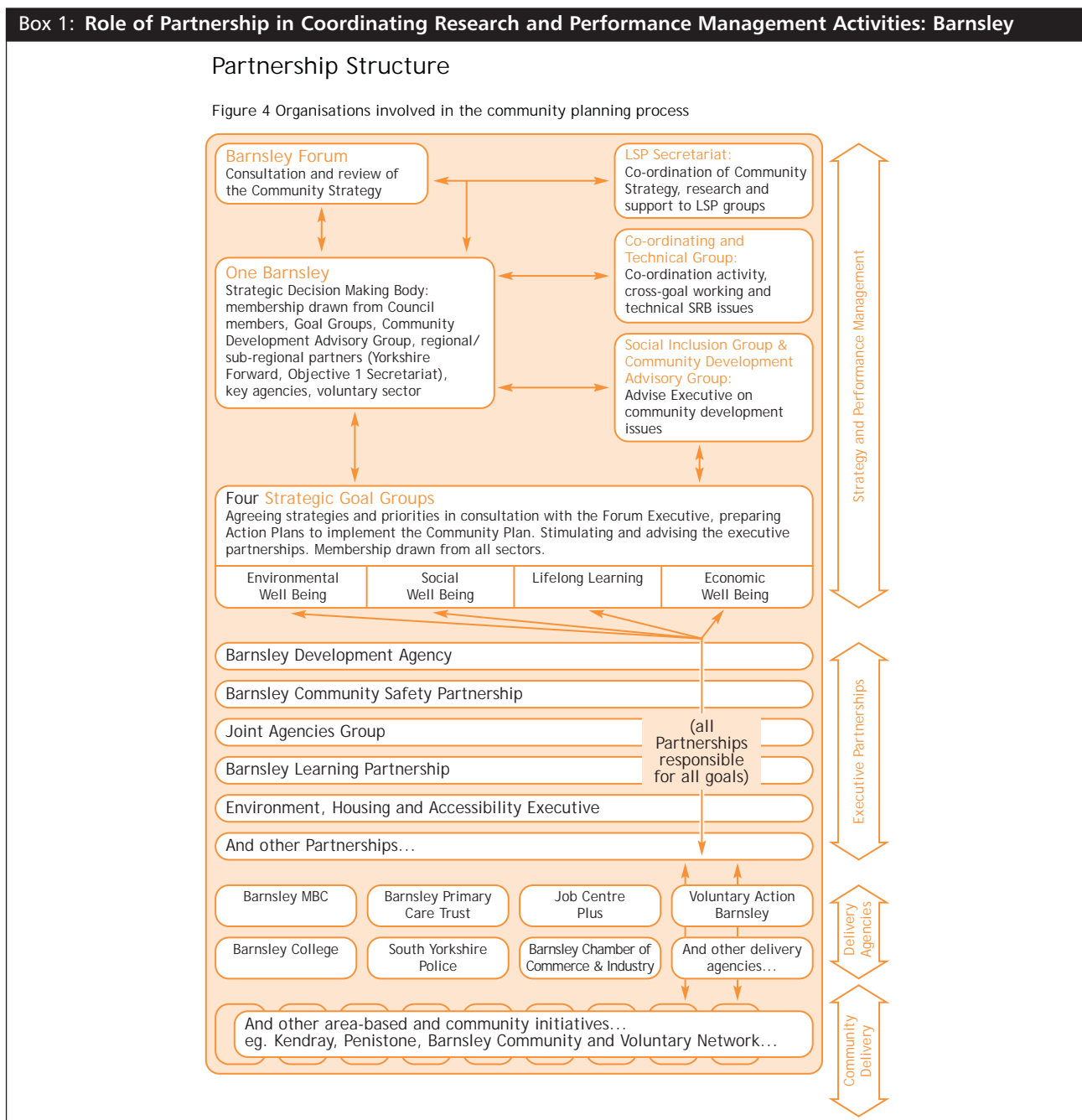


## 4.1 LSP Commitment and Investment

LSPs should provide the appropriate mechanism for directing the collection and analysis of evidence. Many stakeholders involved on LSPs will collect and hold data for their own purposes. These include both statutory public agencies (local authorities, Police and PCTs) but may also include the voluntary and community sector (for example on the needs of particular groups) and the private sector (which may give intelligence around business confidence and trends).

Effective partnership between these stakeholders may both reduce the costs of data collection, analysis and dissemination. It may also be appropriate to have formed a working group or partnership which reports to the LSP on evidence. Additional provision is necessary for two-tier areas, where there currently appears far greater duplication of data collection. It is suggested that a model for using evidence is developed at a county level and includes the needs of districts.

The example in Box 1 (below) is of Barnsley LSP where a recognised function of the LSP secretariat is the co-ordination of the community strategy, research and support to LSP groups. Recognising that there are benefits in sharing evidence, and committing resources to sharing data, is a first step in a model for using evidence.



Extracted from *Community Strategy for Barnsley*

However, the collection of evidence should also be outward looking: this involves both the collection and analysis of evidence from other (benchmark areas) but also developing links with other strategic bodies involved in data collection: for example, regional public health observatories (see [www.apho.org.uk/apho](http://www.apho.org.uk/apho)) and RDA sponsored regional observatories (see [www.regionalobservatories.org.uk](http://www.regionalobservatories.org.uk)). LSPs therefore need to ensure that they engage with holders of evidence at other spatial tiers.

If the development and implementation of sustainable community strategies is to be evidence-based, LSPs and their stakeholders will need to consider how evidence collection and analysis is to be resourced and whether any capacity building is required. This may be in terms of the technical skills of staff within the LSP and across partners, but also in terms of whether additional investments in collection and use of evidence need to be made.

## 4.2 Identifying Evidence: what counts?

Consideration needs to be given to the following when selecting the sources of data. Firstly, are the data easily accessible from existing datasets, from data held by stakeholders and will these be the case in future years? Secondly, consideration needs to be given to whether comparative data exist so that the strategy can be benchmarked, for instance to past performance, or to other areas. Examples of readily available statistics include the Neighbourhood Profiles available from the ONS ([www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk](http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk)) and the Area Profiles from the Audit Commission ([www.areaprofiles.audit-commission.gov.uk](http://www.areaprofiles.audit-commission.gov.uk)). These sites both provide data for many policy domains. More specific data is available on specific issues, for example on crime, health, education and employment from the relevant government departments. All of these forms of data are relatively cost effective to collect and are largely comparable over time and between areas.

However, there is clearly a need for additional, often locally collected data, to precisely inform the aims and objectives of strategies. This may include local consultation material (from household surveys or consultations), local research and monitoring data held by stakeholders. The publication *Data Provision for Neighbourhood Renewal (Final Report)* outlines the range of data which local authorities and other stakeholders already collect<sup>6</sup>.

In the review and assessment of community strategies, few LSPs appeared to consider the financial resources which may be entering an area and the effectiveness of existing organisational arrangements for delivering public services. The introduction of LAAs should assist this process and provide the LSP with a framework to make judgements around the cost effectiveness of different interventions and the cost of meeting key local needs: for example value for money assessments should be made across each of the LAA blocks.

Further issues in identifying the sources of evidence regard the process by which data is collected and analysed. Key issues which LSPs should be careful of include:

- **Sample sizes:** caution needs to be shown in generalising from that the findings from consultations or from surveys of small numbers. Both are useful to illuminate policies but not necessarily to establish a strong case for an intervention or to provide evidence of success.

<sup>6</sup> OCSI (2006), *Research Report 21: Data Provision for Neighbourhood Renewal – Final Report* (London: ODPM). See website: [www.neighbourhood.gov.uk/publications.asp?did=1705](http://www.neighbourhood.gov.uk/publications.asp?did=1705).

- **Response biases:** surveys and consultations can include a range of response biases and caution should be shown that reasonable checks are made as to the sample strategy and responses.
- **Data sharing:** this should be the key to a model for the use of evidence. However, there are limitations and barriers to this and these should be identified at the outset and reviewed periodically. Examples here include the prevention of releasing data due to data protection issues and the costs of having to reformat and clean datasets.

However a strategic model and approach to data sharing based on a shared model for using evidence would appear to bring benefits and possibly allow for a rationalisation of activities where there is seen to be a duplication of data collection. This is an area where LSPs should bring significant benefits.

Box 2 shows the range of data sources used in Wandsworth LSP's community strategy to establish a target and monitoring framework.

#### Box 2: Sources of Evidence for Targets: Wandsworth

##### Key to indicators

LPSA	Local Public Service Agreement Indicators. Wandsworth Council is currently in the advanced stages of negotiations on agreement of a set of LPSA targets with the Office for the Deputy Prime Minister. These are indicators with challenging targets which are negotiated between individual Councils and Government departments. The aim of the LPSA is to secure an enhanced level of performance in key areas in return for financial incentives from the Government. The position on LPSAs in the table below reflects the latest negotiated position at the time of print (November 2003). As such, the targets and definitions of these indicators could change with on going discussions with the ODPM.
BV	Refers to the Council's statutory Best Value Performance Indicators that are set annually by the Office for the Deputy Prime Minister and reported as part of the Council's Best Value Performance Plan (BVPP). They cover all of the Council's main service functions, from housing to social services and education to leisure.
Top line	These are non-BV indicators, but ones which the Council considers important for Wandsworth. They are monitored and reported annually in the BVPP.
T	These refer to health indicators set out in the PCT's Local Delivery Plan
PAF	Performance Assessment Framework indicators. These are part of a comprehensive set of indicators covering all children's and adults' services set by the Department of Health. All Social Services departments in England have to report on these indicators.
LSC	Refers to indicators reported on by the Learning and Skills Council who are responsible for post-16 education in Wandsworth.
QoL	Quality of Life indicators. These have recently been developed by the Audit Commission to help LSP's monitor their Community Strategies.
Local	These generally refer to non-statutory indicators which are important for the local area, some of which have been developed specifically to monitor an aspect of the Community Strategy.
UDP	A target within the Council's Unitary Development Plan, a new version of which was formally adopted in 2003.

Extract from *Wandsworth Community Strategy*

**Box 3: Range of References used in community strategies: Hampshire**

**References**

Hampshire Residents Survey 2002	Can work - can't buy. Local measures of the ability of working households to become home owners: Joseph Rowntree Foundation, May 2003	Compendium of Clinical and Health Indicators 2002	Hampshire Water Strategy 2003: Hampshire County Council
Hampshire Residents Survey 2003	The Evidence: National Housing Federation SE Research, March 2003	2003 NHS Star Ratings: Commission for Health Improvement	State of the Environment 2003: Environment Agency
Hampshire Profile 2001	Affordable and Key Worker Housing Provision in Hampshire 2003: Hampshire County Council	Informing our Future 2003: Hampshire Economic Partnership	The State of the Countryside 2003: The Countryside Agency
Broadband Stakeholder Group - 3rd Annual Report	British Crime Survey 2002/03: Home Office	Regional Monitoring Report 2003: South East England Regional Assembly	Every Child Matters: Green Paper, September 2003
Youth Justice Board Annual Return 2003	Hampshire Police Authority Annual Policing Plan 2004/05	Audit and Analysis of Hampshire County Council's polices and activities relevant to Climate Change 2003: CAG Consultants	Statistics on road accidents from the Department of Transport 2003.
Census 2001 National Report: Office of National Statistics	Report of the South East Regional Director of Public Health, June 2002	Summary of predicted climate change impacts for the South East: UKCIP	Data from Fire Statistics 2001 (published April 2003): Office of National Statistics
National Travel Survey 2002, National Statistics Statistical Release, News Release 2004	Hampshire Unemployment and Vacancies Bulletin, February 2004	Survey of psychiatric morbidity among adults living in private homes 2002: Office of National Statistics	Sure Start Strategic Plan 2004-2006: Hampshire County Council
Index of Multiple Deprivation 2004: Office of the Deputy Prime Minister			

Extract from *Hampshire Community Strategy*



The Hampshire Community Strategy provides an indication of the range of sources of evidence which may be used, by including a references page. These are shown in Box 3.

### 4.3 Forecasting and options assessment

Sustainable community strategies should set out a medium to long-term vision for an area which is shared by all stakeholders and reflects local needs and aspirations. This should also consider the effect of various external factors on meeting these needs. For example, restrictions on new road construction may restrict options around the development of greenfield sites.

The main form of forecasting in community strategies was found to be based on projecting forward existing baselines and then setting targets around key priorities. This approach typically used key indicators (such as floor targets) and forecasts may be made for a three-five year time horizon. Although this approach has its merits, sustainable community strategies need to be based on a deeper understanding of social, economic and environmental change in the future. An example of issues here would be around the effects of demographic and social change, such as a growing ageing population, and the effect of this on policy areas such as housing, health and social service provision. Similar exercises, even if posed as scenarios, should be done for issues, such as the environment. A more robust understanding of change should be a key part of the role of the strategy in informing policies to support sustainable communities.

Few community strategies which were assessed appeared to have been based on a systematic appraisal of policy options for priorities. This should be a key part of setting the vision for the area and in giving the LSP a clear sense of the trajectory it wishes to follow. Evidence should be used to inform options assessments. Two quite distinctive approaches were found from the review of community strategies. In Ryedale a local Visioning exercise was undertaken by external consultants. This involved consulting different groups across the district to identify differing visions from the area and through further consultation then to identify key priorities to deliver these visions.

An alternative approach was used in Bath and North East Somerset. Here, the initial stage of developing the community strategy was to map and analyse all plans and strategies both within and outside the local authority. A sophisticated database was then developed (the 'Community Scorecard') which could be used to search strategies by different variables. The range of indicators used was also extracted and was used to explore themes in the strategies. A 'scenario workshop' was then held with 70–80 people from key agencies and a series of 'causation maps' were developed which gave rise to further consultative documents based around selected themes.

Other tools which may be used to inform sustainable community strategies include: health impact assessments; formal options appraisal; sustainability appraisals; and environmental impact assessments.

### 4.4 Consultation: stakeholders, residents and businesses

The activity most frequently used in the development of community strategies was found to be consultation with local residents and groups. Consultation evidence can be seen to take two broad forms: the collection of survey data, for example through household surveys; or

consultation with different groups around priorities. Whilst the former may be seen as an important tool in monitoring attitudinal change and resident satisfaction (and lends itself to follow-up surveys over time), the latter is used in a much more formative sense. That is, to test out and confirm whether priorities are and correct and to identify the best way for policies to be implemented.

The following example (Box 4) is taken from Wigan’s Community Strategy and shows the presentation of household survey evidence (using Wigan’s Citizen Panel) and how this is used to monitor change.

**Box 4: Presentation of Resident Survey Findings: Wigan**

## so what do people think of the Wigan Borough ?

**The Wigan Citizens’ Panel**  
(just under 900 people) **was surveyed in 2001 and again in 2004. Here are some comparisons of the two surveys:**

We also asked what should the priorities for the next generation of young people be. This was the response:

1. Standards of living
2. Education
3. Health
4. Safe Clean Neighbourhoods
5. Economy
6. Environment
7. Culture
8. Transport

**Wigan Borough ...**

Category	2001	2004
is a good place to live	54%	70%
has strong public services	30%	55%
has a strong community spirit	25%	43%
is a good place to do business	35%	41%

Responses to questions not asked in 2001 included

Proud to live in Wigan Borough	Yes 64%
Wigan is the same or better than other Boroughs in the North West	Yes 59%

*we need to do more about this*

How key issues are changing in Wigan Borough (All respondents)				
	Better	About the same	Worse	Net rating <small>+% better -% worse</small>
Education	38	50	10	+28
Health	35	51	12	+23
Environment	34	49	15	+19
Culture	32	51	16	+16
Economy	28	51	18	+10
Safe, clean neighbourhoods	24	48	26	-2
Standard of living	13	50	16	-3
Transport	19	47	32	-13

Sample base - 893 (This excludes people on the panel who did not respond) \*Net rating = % better - % worse

Extract from Wigan Community Strategy

Box 5 shows the range of consultation activities which were used in York in the development of the community strategy. This type of evidence provided by consultation is very different from household survey data. It can take different forms but is often closely linked and based on individual experience.

<b>Box 5: Range of Consultation Activities: York City</b>	
<p>Consultation with people included a 'Without Walls' event which engaged local residents and visitors from around the city to find out more about the kind of York they wished to see in 20 years time. This period of consultation was called the 'Festival of Ideas'. At festivals, events and public meetings, through questionnaires, on the internet and radio, people were encouraged to write postcards of how they envisaged York in the future. The following provides an indication of the range of activities which were used:</p>	
<p><b>York Residents</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Callers and listeners to three live Radio York events</li> <li>• 190 people sent in pre-paid postcards on the future of York</li> <li>• 150 people talked on camera about their vision for York</li> <li>• 923 'wishes for the future' were made</li> <li>• 380 people attended seven public debates</li> <li>• Over 500 Talk About citizens panel members sent in postcards</li> </ul>	<p><b>Communities of Interest</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 70 ideas to improve access in the city were raised by disabled representatives at a special meeting of the Disabled Persons Advisory Group</li> <li>• York Racial Equality Network invited comments via the Black and Minority Ethnic Forum</li> <li>• MESMAC invited comments through the Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Resident's Forum</li> <li>• Nearly 100 comments were collected from the Older People's Assembly</li> </ul>
<p><b>Children and Young people</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 807 wishes for the future were made by 270 school children</li> <li>• A class of 12 year old pupils from Millthorpe School investigated ideas for the future of the York Central site and interviewed eight and nine year olds to find out their views</li> </ul>	<p><b>Geographical Communities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 780 residents contributed their ideas for improving their neighbourhood and city when they attended ward committee community planning events</li> </ul>

Extract from York City Community Strategy

## 4.5 Initial draft: setting priorities and themes

Often during the period of consultation, LSPs and partners will find it helpful to set out a draft list of themes to inform discussions. What appears to be helpful in this process is a channelling of discussion so that consultation can draw on evidence and is grounded in a clear understanding of the context of the area. Such contextual evidence formed part of some community strategies, such as Wigan, Bradford and Hampshire. The following example (Box 6) is taken from Bradford's 2020 Vision and Community Strategy and shows how evidence may be used in the narrative of a community strategy.

<b>Box 6: Summarising Evidence: the Bradford District Community Strategy</b>
<p><b>Where Are We Now: The Bradford District in 2002</b>                      The Bradford District is a special and surprising place. Its people, its geography and architecture, its arts and sports are rich in history and diversity.</p> <p><b>The People</b>                      The population of the Bradford District is 481,000. Ethnic minority communities make up 22% of the population, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 15.4% Pakistani</li> <li>• 3% Indian</li> <li>• 1.3% Bangladeshi</li> </ul>

continued overleaf

**Box 6: Summarising Evidence: the Bradford District Community Strategy (continued)**

- 1.3% African-Caribbean
- 1.4% other non-white.

There are people from Ireland, Italy, Germany, Hungary, the Baltic, the Czech and Slovak republics, Poland, the Ukraine and Byelorussia. By 2020 the population is expected to have grown by 4% to 501,000, with ethnic minority communities making up 35% of that figure. Though the population is younger than in many Districts, there will be substantial increases in the number of pensioners and the very elderly (Source: Bradford Census 1991).

**The Place**

The Bradford District is made up of the city and the towns of Keighley, Bingley, Shipley and Ilkley. 66% of the District's landscape is rural. Five million people (including the populations of Manchester, Leeds and Sheffield) live within an hour's drive of Bradford city centre.

**The Economy**

Bradford's unemployment rate is at its lowest level in two decades; however at 4.6% it is above the national average of 2.8% and rises to 12% in parts of the inner city, outlying estates and Keighley. The District's economy is low-skill, low-wage and 25% of employers report difficulties in recruiting to skilled technical, professional and managerial posts. 44% of Bradford's children live in low-income households, compared with a national figure of 26.7%.

**Education**

Educational attainment levels in the Bradford District are well below national averages and progress in narrowing the gap is slow. Just 34.3% of pupils achieved five or more GCSEs at A-C\* compared with the national average of 50% in 2000. The average achievement of Bangladeshi, African, African Caribbean, Pakistani and white male pupils is even lower and is a particular cause for concern. The qualification levels of 19 and 21-year-olds are a concern. There is good further education provision in the District yet many young adults do not remain in education or receive training whilst in employment.

**Health**

The health of people in the District is below the national average. The District has higher than average:

- Numbers of people who cannot work as a result of illness, cancer, coronary heart disease and diabetes, particularly among the Asian community.
- Disability – an increasing trend in Asian children.
- Teenage pregnancy.

The average life expectancy of women in the District is 79 years, compared with 80.1 years nationally, and 73.5 years for men, compared with 75.2 years nationally.

**Housing**

The District has over 180,000 properties, with sharply contrasting property values. Seven per cent of the Council's housing stock and owner-occupied stock, and 21% of private rented accommodation, is unfit. By 2010 there will be a predicted 15,000 more households, predominantly Asian, in the Bradford District, 22% more large families and 29% more multi-adult families. 13,000 additional housing units will be required to accommodate this growth. There are issues around access to social housing for ethnic minority households and housing ownership and maintenance.

**Crime**

There has been a 14.3% rise in the crime rate for the Bradford District, particularly in car crime in 2001/2002. Crime is unevenly spread throughout the District, with the poorest areas suffering the highest crime rates. While the District's crime rate is higher than national averages it is still relatively low compared to other large cities and experiences less violent crime than the national average. In the Bradford District there are 9.4 incidents of domestic violence reported to the Police per 1,000 population. This is higher than the West Yorkshire average of 8.8.

**The Environment**

Many aspects of the District's environment are exceptional. It has a diverse rural landscape, including Ilkley and Haworth Moors, there are many historically significant and beautiful buildings, air quality meets Government standards and traffic congestion is relatively low. Environmental concerns in the District include:

- Littered streets and fly tipping and the poor image they present of the District.
- A poor public transport and/or road networks in some areas.
- The flooding around the Wharfe and Aire rivers.
- A shortage of land for economic development.

**Community Cohesion**

In 2001 England experienced the worst outbreaks of public disorder since the 1981 riots in London, Liverpool, Manchester and Birmingham. The Bradford District experienced two significant outbreaks of disorder, which

*continued overleaf*

**Box 6: Summarising Evidence: the Bradford District Community Strategy (continued)**

revealed a depth of resentment, anger and a willingness to behave unlawfully by young men that shocked and challenged the leaders of all communities. *Community Pride Not Prejudice*, the report on community relations in the Bradford District launched coincidentally in the week after the disturbances of July 2001, documented levels of segregation and polarisation both between and within communities which represent a serious threat to good community relations. These are the features shaping the District in 2002. This *community strategy* addresses the challenges that this picture presents, keeps the year 2020 in focus and takes account of the issues that really matter to local people, communities and organisations.

**What Do People Want?**

Two years after the public consultation exercise which resulted in the 2020 Vision, Bradford Council carried out its first ever public consultation about spending priorities. Five themes emerged particularly prominently and these are at the heart of the community strategy.

They are:

- The need to reduce crime and fear of crime.
- The need for higher educational standards.
- The need to clean up the District.
- The need to do something about disaffected youth.
- The right of older people to live in dignity.

Extract from *Bradford City Community Strategy*

## 4.6 Communication, refinement and dissemination

Community strategies should be effectively communicated, refined on the basis of feedback and widely disseminated. Evidence needs to be presented clearly and be capable of being understood by technical and non-technical audiences. Different approaches to the presentation of evidence should be used: for instance, incorporating evidence in the narrative of strategies, presenting data in conjunction with maps and diagrams and trying to demonstrate what evidence may mean for different groups.

The example in Box 7 shows the location of the poorest neighbourhoods in Wigan and which will be used to target NRF resources. The map is based on data from the Index of Multiple Deprivation. The use of maps to communicate evidence was rarely undertaken in the community strategies reviewed, although would appear to be an excellent way to communicate spatial issues, and for example evidence in support of the Local Development Framework.

## 4.7 Policy into practice

The priorities set in sustainable community strategies should inform and direct services in the future. The main mechanism which LSPs use to do this is an action plan which sets actions, targets and outcomes over a one-to-three year time horizon. These actions should be evidence-based and targets realistic and measurable.

However, stakeholders should also have a commitment to using evidence to inform practice as well as policy. Although this has greater recognition in some service areas than others (for instance health interventions), the use of evidence should not stop at the setting of priorities and headline actions. How evidence may inform the delivery of different services will vary but commitment by stakeholders to use evidence to inform practice should be made.

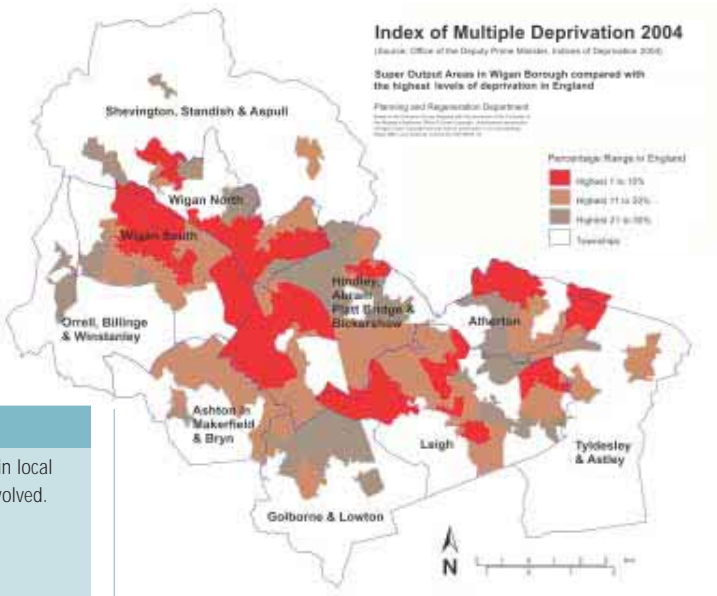
Although few community strategies were found to use evaluations of previous strategies, programmes and interventions to inform the documents, some had used good practice

**Box 7: Outlining Issues of Neighbourhood Deprivation: Wigan**

**Wigan** lies on the West Coast Mainline railway from South to North and is a large railway hub within the region. It's close to four motorways: **M6, M61, M58 and M62** offering easy access to major cities and airports, a factor which has attracted many businesses into the area, particularly in retail distribution.

**Local Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy**

This map shows the areas of the Borough with the highest levels of need on certain issues. Wigan Borough Partnership has developed a plan to ensure that the varying needs of all areas in the Borough are properly understood and addressed. This plan is called the Local Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy and the Government has awarded extra funds to support work in areas of highest need.



**This work is based around 3 main themes:**

**Community Pride**

Supporting a sense of well being and satisfaction in local communities - encouraging people to get more involved. Activities supported include:

- Home Watch
- Voluntary/community groups
- Neighbourhood Wardens

**Promoting Social Inclusion**

This tackles anti-social behaviour at its roots by supporting action in communities. Activities have included:

- Support and education for children, young people and their families
- Specialised activities
- Sunflower health project

**Tackling Social Exclusion**

Formal responses when problems cannot be solved informally. Examples include:

- Legal action supported by evidence
- Targeted work with individuals
- Anti-Social Behaviour Orders

**Around these main themes are a number of other activities which help to focus resources where they are most needed:**

**Community consultation** nearly always expresses real concern about young people. Sometimes this is about anti-social behaviour - often it is about a lack of facilities and activities for them. Many of our local projects are targeting work to young people.

We are also supporting work to develop the local youth council.

**Improving services.** Although services might be improved with more resources - public money is limited. We recognise that services can be improved by the way they are delivered.

We need to work together better so we are able to save money and improve quality of delivery as well as providing investment wherever possible. The local Township Forums help to make sure services at a local level meet local needs more effectively.

Extract from *Wigan community strategy*

examples. One such case is the Northumberland Community Strategy which outlines four projects to indicate the type of activities the LSP wishes to support in the future (see Box 8).

**4.8 Monitoring and performance management**

The main mechanism for monitoring progress towards the aims and objectives of the sustainable community strategy is the implementation of an associated action plan on an

## Box 8: Good Practice Examples: Northumberland

## Northumberland 2010

## Good Practice Examples

**Northumberland Smoking Cessation Service**

The Northumberland Smoking Cessation Service has been developed by a partnership of Northumberland Care Trust (previously Northumberland Health Authority), the four Primary Care Groups and Northumbria Healthcare NHS Trust in response to a Department of Health directive.

The service provides structured, evidence-based smoking cessation support and treatment to smokers who want to quit. There are three levels of support available to those seeking help to give up. GPs and health professionals can offer brief advice and may arrange for nicotine replacement therapy; trained 'intermediate' advisors in GP's surgeries, hospitals and some pharmacies who support patients on a one-to-one basis for up to 4 weeks and specialist advisors who support patients at a more intense level for up to 12 weeks – with follow-ups for up to one year after stopping smoking. Home visits, clinic appointments or work-place and community based sessions can be arranged.

The service was launched in early 2000 and up to the end of March 2002, 6395 people had sought help from the service. Of these, 3418 have remained quit for at least four weeks.

**NOW! Young Peoples Information Service**

NOW! Youth Information, Advice and Support Service is a multi-agency project (funded through HAZ and SRB6 and is managed by the Northumberland County Youth Service. It aims to provide integrated information, advice and support services for young people right across Northumberland by incorporating and supporting existing youth provision, and by developing new pieces of work where gaps are identified.

The Service began developing in 2001 and works with 9 to 25 year olds (focusing particularly on 13 to 19's). It will eventually be delivered through Youth Information Shops, Information Points' and Mobile provision. Staffed by qualified, professional workers, it aims to provide a safe and welcoming environment where young people can access information, advice and resources in a non-judgemental way. NOW! works in partnership with both the statutory and voluntary sector, is free of charge and is accessible to all young people.

**Rural Stress Initiative**

The Northumberland Rural Stress Initiative is a project managed by the Community Council of Northumberland. It is a co-ordinated package of measures of practical advice and support addressing the increasing financial and emotional pressures facing our rural communities. It brings together a broad partnership of voluntary and statutory bodies aiming to ensure that people experiencing problems such as low income, unemployment or relationship breakdown have access to help in managing their situation. The Citizens Advice Bureaux, Debt Advice Within Northumberland and Relate have all been funded to provide extra services for rural communities. Other organisations which make up the Northumberland Rural Stress Network of agencies offering help and support include the Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution, Farm Crisis Network, Business Link, the Health Authority and local churches.

**Cancer Bridge Holistic Cancer Help Centre**

Cancer Bridge is not a hospice but a new holistic cancer help centre for the North of England, based near Hexham in Northumberland.

It is a registered charity offering a diverse range of residential and non-residential therapeutic and support services to people affected by cancer. All services are provided on a not-for-profit basis.

*continued overleaf*

## Box 8: Good Practice Examples: Northumberland (continued)

## Northumberland 2010

In a nutshell, the ethos of Cancer Bridge is “living with cancer” and all that that entails. It is different for every individual, as are the benefits; the approach is non-clinical and non-prescriptive – putting patients in control. The holistic approach considers the impact of the disease on the whole person – mind, body and spirit, exploring how these aspects of the individual are interconnected. Nearly a third of a million people are newly diagnosed each year – rates for the north are well above the national average and prognosis poorer than in other regions. These services are available to anyone affected by cancer at any stage of his or her cancer journey. Over 800 patients have been to the centre since it opened in July 2001, most of them from Yorkshire, Durham, Northumberland, Cumbria and the Borders, as there is no other equivalent centre in the north of England. Services are available both to cancer patients and their carers and supporters and are provided by a small team of dedicated and highly experienced part-time staff, operating from a lovely old building set in its own grounds.

The centre was officially opened by Prince Charles in September 2002, who has commented “we are all unique individuals, and we can’t be pigeonholed into one box and treated exactly the same. I hope and pray that there will be many more centres like this all round the country, so that many people will be able to take advantage of complementary therapies”.

#### Intergenerational Accident Prevention Project at Moorside First School

Age Concern Northumberland’s Intergenerational project creates activities and projects, which provide opportunities for, old and young to work together and learning from one another as well as developing new skills – helping to bridge the generation gap.

The Intergenerational Accident Prevention project was a multi agency initiative involving Moorside



First School, Newbiggin, Age Concern Northumberland, Northumberland H.A.Z., Ashington Co-op Camera Club, Members of Newbiggin W.I. and Castle Morpeth Disability Association.

The programme raised awareness and educated the children and older people about the risks of accidents and injury. The aims of the project were to support and encourage children and older people to learn from each other, to examine their own environments and find their own solutions to keep them safe.

The initiative brought together 7-9 year olds from the school, the members of the Camera Club and other older members of the community to work together with a sessional arts worker to consider safety issues in their own homes, in the street and on roads as well as in school and their leisure environment.

These ideas and images formed the basis of silk painted banners, which are displayed in the school hall.

The children and photographers took photographic evidence which illustrated the positive and negative elements of safety in and around their school. These photographs form part of an exhibition of work and have been displayed in several venues in Newbiggin – the exhibitions will also be used countywide by Age Concern Northumberland’s Accident Prevention Co-ordinator, for health promotion activities to illustrate how children and older people view safety and accident prevention.

Extract from *Northumberland Community Strategy*

annual basis. Different approaches to action planning have been developed by LSPs: some have sought to focus on a limited number of *added value interventions*; while others have sought to capture all major interventions by stakeholders. Both models may be appropriate but clearly have different resource implications for LSPs. However, in both cases, actions should be clearly specified with measurable targets in the form of outputs.



**Box 9: Setting Targets – example of crime: Wandsworth**

<b>Making Wandsworth Safe</b>				
Indicator	2002/03 Baseline	Target 2003/04	Target 2004/05	Target 2005/06
<b>BV126</b>				
Domestic burglaries for every thousand households	24.9	22.9	22.0	21.1
<b>BV127</b>				
Violent crimes per 1000 population	20.0	19.62	19.42	19.42
broken down as follows:				
violent offences committed by a stranger	15.41	15.11	14.95	14.95
violent offences committed in a public place	18.42	18.13	17.95	17.95
violent offences committed in connection with licensed premises	A baseline and associated targets for these indicators will be produced for 2003/04 subject to further Government guidance.			
violent offences committed under the influence				
Robberies for every thousand population	6.01	5.71	5.43	5.15
<b>BV128</b>				
Vehicle crimes for every thousand population	19.97	18.98	18.03	17.49
<b>QoL</b>				
Percentage of residents surveyed who feel fairly safe or very safe a) after dark, and b) whilst outside in Wandsworth	This question is included within the 2003/04 BVPI User Satisfaction Survey. The Community Strategy baseline will therefore use 2003/04 data.			
<b>Local</b>				
Percentage of residents who responded that they felt "very safe" or "fairly safe" in their own homes	86%	Question asked in Crime Survey 2001. It is planned that the survey be repeated in 2004/05.		
<b>Local</b>				
Young offender reconvictions for:-				
those at pre-court stage	39%	36%	34%	31%
those subject to community penalties	65%	62%	60%	57%
those who were in custody	67%	64%	62%	59%
The baseline figure is based on cohort of young people monitored over a two-year period from October - December 2000.				
<b>Local</b>				
Adult offender reconviction rates for:-				
those subject to Community orders (2 yrs from commencement of community sentence)	12%			
those released from custody (2 yrs from release)	24%			
Provisional data subject to confirmation by Wandsworth Probation Service. Targets will be set on confirmation of data.				
<b>top line</b>				
Number of households in neighbourhood watches	43%	43%	39%	40%
Service changes are scheduled to take place in 2004/05 which may temporarily reduce take-up.				

continued overleaf

<b>Box 9: Setting Targets – example of crime: Wandsworth (continued)</b>				
Indicator	2002/03 Baseline	Target 2003/04	Target 2004/05	Target 2005/06
<b>Local</b>				
Percentage of targeted young people participating in Youth Inclusion Programmes (YIP).	56%	70%	75%	80%
<b>BV174</b>				
The number of racial incidents recorded by the Council per hundred thousand population	50.84	n/a	n/a	n/a
Number of racial incidents are not targetted-indicator is used for monitoring purposes only. Please refer to outcome indicator (BV175) below				
<b>BV175</b>				
The number of racial incidents reported where further action has been taken	100%	100%	100%	100%
<b>Local</b>				
<b>Percentage of graffiti calls dealt with in target time:-</b>				
racist/abusive (24 hours)	92.7%	100%	100%	100%
other (48 hours)	97.9%	100%	100%	100%
<b>LPSA</b>				
<b>Incidences of fly-posting and abandoned vehicles on Wandsworth roads, measured by:-</b>				
Voluntarily abandoned vehicles	1000			1250
Annual numbers of abandoned vehicles removed from the borough within 24 hours of expiry of the removal notice	1600			2400
Percentage of offensive fly-posters removed within 2 hours of report and receipt of property owners permission	0%			100%
Percentage of other fly-posters removed within 24 hours of report and receipt of property owners permission	0%			100%
Number of prosecutions for fly-posting	12			16

Extract from *Wandsworth Community Strategy*

The previous tables (in Box 9) are taken from the Wandsworth Community Strategy. They are typical of how monitoring frameworks have been developed. The table indicates the sources of data and this can be seen as good practice as it ensures that data are collected on a common basis and from established sources. The targets set in the strategy are drawn from a range of sources, but are clearly tied into the objectives and actions set in the community strategy.

How individual actions and outputs contribute to overall outcome targets is difficult to assess through monitoring alone. All monitoring and performance management can do in this case is provide an objective measure of the progress towards implementing actions and the completion of outputs, with a more qualitative assessment of whether these will lead to outcomes. Nonetheless, the function of monitoring is important in the implementation of the action plan.

## 4.9 Evaluation and critical assessment

The development and implementation of sustainable community strategies should be seen as a cycle. A component of this should be scope for evaluation and critical assessment. This may come from internal or peer assessment but also from external scrutiny and evaluation. Many NRF areas have commissioned evaluations into the effectiveness of their Local Neighbourhood Renewal Strategies. These have typically focused on how NRF has been spent and whether the funded interventions will contribute to narrowing the gap, especially in the most disadvantaged areas, with floor targets. For example the Wakefield District Partnership has commissioned an evaluation which explores: the effectiveness of the partnership; whether delivery arrangements are adequate for the remit of the community strategy; and whether interventions from NRF will help disadvantaged areas close the gap. All LSPs may find commissioning some form of external scrutiny or evaluation useful: especially for innovative, risky or the most costly aspects of their sustainable community strategy.

## 4.10 Feedback and review

Results from evaluations and from monitoring should inform the regular review of sustainable community strategies. LSPs should be committed to reviewing and updating documents based on changing local circumstances. The use of evidence should be a key part of this feedback and review process. Liverpool LSP, for example, has developed formal procedures for getting feedback from its Strategic Issues Partnerships to inform priorities. The LSP has established structures and processes to enable staff to liaise more effectively in order to make evidence-based decisions. A greater amount of neighbourhood level is now available to all partners to support this process.

## Chapter 5. Sources of Evidence for Sustainable Community Strategies

There is a plethora of data collected by local government and agencies, regional agencies, central government and international organisations which may be of relevance in the development, implementation and review of sustainable community strategies. This section of the guidance on the use of evidence highlights the main sources which are likely to be of relevance. For the purposes of this document they are grouped by type of evidence: primary including household data; secondary data; inspection and performance scores and assessments; and other research and commissioned evidence.

It is anticipated that evidence should be collected across the key components of sustainable community strategies – these are largely addressed by the Audit Commission's Quality of Life indicators:

- 1) **Active, Inclusive and Safe** – *fair, tolerant and cohesive with a strong local culture and other shared community activities*
- 2) **Well-run** – *with effective and inclusive participation, representation and leadership*
- 3) **Environmentally Sensitive** – *providing places for people to live that are considerate of the environment*
- 4) **Well Designed and Built** – *featuring a quality built and natural environment*
- 5) **Well Connected** – *with good transport services and communication linking people to jobs, schools, health and other services*
- 6) **Thriving** – *with a flourishing and diverse local economy*
- 7) **Well Served** – *with public, private, community and voluntary services that are appropriate to people's needs and accessible to all*
- 8) **Fair for Everyone** – *including those in other communities, now and in the future*

### 5.1 Local primary and consultation data

The assessment of 50 community strategies revealed that the following forms of primary and consultation data are being used by local authorities and LSPs to inform community strategies:

- (Best Value) Residents Survey undertaken bi-or triennially.
- (Regional) SBS/CBI Business Surveys
- Stakeholder surveys
- Face-to-face resident surveys

- Roadshows
- Visioning workshops
- Community Strategy Conferences with agencies and the voluntary and community sector
- Young people events, including class-based exercises on images and wishes for the local area
- Neighbourhood consultations

Examples of good practice around these are highlighted in the review and assessment of community strategies publication.<sup>7</sup>

The purpose of collecting these different forms of primary data varies. Survey evidence, for instance of households, can provide both a robust snapshot of the area as well as an indication as to how an area is changing over time. Data collected from households surveys can include questions on satisfaction with public services, quality of life as well as questions around participation (e.g. levels of volunteering and public participation).

In contrast, most consultation evidence is used to confirm and communicate strategies and priorities at their formative stage. They do not necessarily dramatically change the direction of policy but they allow for it to be fine tuned. Consultations may also help to cement partnerships.

## 5.2 Secondary data

The review and assessment of community strategies found that many documents gave greater importance to consultation evidence in the setting of priorities than secondary data (such as data on local employment or housing issues available as part of a national dataset). An exception to this tended to be areas in receipt of NRF which are required to monitor performance against floor targets. The following outlines links to key datasets which provide local or neighbourhood level data:

- Neighbourhood Profiles available from the ONS ([www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk](http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk))
- Area Profiles from the Audit Commission ([www.areaprofiles.audit-commission.gov.uk](http://www.areaprofiles.audit-commission.gov.uk)).

The ODPM sponsored [www.data4nr.net](http://www.data4nr.net) may also be of considerable use to both NRF and non-NRF areas. It provides a list and links to all major datasets which are held by government on issues related to neighbourhood renewal. Areas may also choose to draw on other data collected by a local agency or other central government department. This may include, for example, indicators around biodiversity and recycling, participation rates higher education and business competitiveness (measured by gross value added and innovation measures). DCLG has also recently published a guide to data provision for neighbourhood renewal (see Annex B).

<sup>7</sup> Wells, P. and Goudie, R. (2005), *Review of Community Strategies and Detailed Assessment of 50*, (London: ODPM). See website: [www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1162354](http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1162354) pp. 20–23

### 5.3 Inspection reports and performance scores

As the success of sustainable community strategies is closely tied to the agencies delivering services, it may be appropriate to include as evidence the performance of key agencies. This would be consistent with the 'well served' component of Sustainable Communities. The main inspection bodies covering English local authorities and agencies operating in England are:

- Audit Commission (Local Government, Financial Management in the Health Sector, Community Safety Services and Housing)
- OFSTED – Office for Standards in Education (inspection of state schools, childcare providers, children's services and colleges)
- CHI – Commission for Health Improvement (covering all NHS Trusts)
- HMIC – HM Inspectorate of Constabulary in England and Wales (assessment and inspection of Police forces)

Although inspection reports themselves draw from a range of evidence they may inform the setting of targets to improve service delivery.

### 5.4 Other research and commissioned evidence

In developing and implementing sustainable community strategies, LSPs may also commission evidence, for example in the form of primary research or the evaluation of an existing initiative. Few community strategies were found to contain this form of evidence. A key component of evidence-based sustainable community strategies should be the use of evaluative evidence of past interventions and the use of new research which may provide clear insights into the operation of initiatives.

Rather than commission wholly new research before investing in an initiative, LSPs could also effectively draw upon and synthesise existing research and evaluations. In some cases, for example for large scale initiatives, this may require a detailed and extensive systematic review, however, smaller initiatives could be supported by the use of rapid evidence assessments and evidence reviews. These may serve to identify the range of likely outcomes from an initiative and to surface possible pitfalls. Sources and links to such evidence include:

- Economic and Social Research Council ([www.esrc.ac.uk](http://www.esrc.ac.uk))
- ESRC Centre for Evidence Based Policy Making and Practice ([www.evidencenetwork.org](http://www.evidencenetwork.org))
- Info4local ([www.info4local.gov.uk](http://www.info4local.gov.uk))
- Improvement and Development Agency ([www.idea-knowledge.gov.uk](http://www.idea-knowledge.gov.uk))

These sources of evidence were found not to have been used in the development of community strategies.

## Chapter 6. Conclusion

This paper has outlined how sustainable community strategies can be evidence-based. It has outlined a model for developing such an evidence base and provided an indication of the sources of evidence which may be used. Clearly, LSPs may have access to a wider array of local data which can support the sustainable community strategy. It should be stressed that there is no one single model for evidence-based sustainable community strategies. This will vary across policy areas and geographic areas.

The relationships between research, knowledge, policy and practice in LSPs will necessarily need to be flexible and open to allow for the factors of contingency and expediency: however, this is not to suggest that the strategies and their priorities should not be informed by evidence.

# Annex A: Outputs from the Process Evaluation of Plan Rationalisation and Formative Evaluation of Plan Rationalisation Project

## A.1 Published

Darlow, Alison and Janie Percy Smith (2006) *Process Evaluation of Community Strategies and Plan rationalisation: Annual Report 2006* London: Department for Communities and Local Government.

Darlow, Alison, Janie Percy Smith and Peter Wells (2005) *Process Evaluation of Community Strategies and Plan rationalisation: Annual Report 2004* London: Office of the Deputy Prime Minister.

Darlow, Alison, Yvette Fidler and Penny Wymer (2005) *Process Evaluation of Plan Rationalisation and Formative Evaluation of Community Strategies: Report of the December 2004 Survey of Local Authorities* London: Office of the Deputy Prime Minister.

Wells, Peter and Rosalind Goudie (2005) *Process Evaluation of Plan Rationalisation and Formative Evaluation of Community Strategies: Review of Community Strategies – Overview of all and more detailed assessment of 50* London: Office of the Deputy Prime Minister.

Wells, Peter, Lynne Dowson and Janie Percy-Smith (2005) *Process Evaluation of Plan Rationalisation and Formative Evaluation of Community Strategies: Consultation Findings and Evaluation Framework* London: Office of the Deputy Prime Minister.

## A.2 Forthcoming

Darlow, Alison, Janie Percy Smith, Sukky Jakki and Peter Wells (2006) *Process Evaluation of Plan Rationalisation and Formative Evaluation of Community Strategies: Plan Rationalisation Issues Paper* London: Department for Communities and Local Government.

Darlow, Alison, Sukky Jakki, Surya Monro and Amanda Stevens (2006) *Process Evaluation of Plan Rationalisation and Formative Evaluation of Community Strategies: Community Strategies: Working at different levels* London: Department for Communities and Local Government.

Darlow, Alison, Yvette Fidler, Janie Percy-Smith and Penny Wymer (2006) *Process Evaluation of Plan Rationalisation and Formative Evaluation of Community Strategies: Report of the May 2006 Survey of Local Authorities* London: Department for Communities and Local Government.

Monro, Surya and Martin Purcell with Alison Darlow, Murray Hawtin, Sukky Jassi and Amanda Stevens (2006) *Process Evaluation of Plan Rationalisation and Formative Evaluation of Community Strategies: Case Studies Synthesis Report 2005* London: Department for Communities and Local Government.



## Annex B: Data Provision for Neighbourhood Renewal

This annex is reproduced from the Neighbourhood Renewal Unit's *Data Provision for Neighbourhood Renewal*. It provides comprehensive details of the data (as one form of evidence) available to LSPs<sup>8</sup>.

### Description of Main Datasets

#### *B.1 Census 2001*

The 2001 Census was held on 29 April 2001. Data from the Census provide essential statistical information, enabling the planning and funding of public services, including education, health and transport. Results also support research and business. The contents of the Census revolve around three basic thematic areas:

- Population units, giving a basic count of people and housing with key characteristics such as age, sex and ethnicity;
- Population structures, giving information on the structure and character of households and families; and
- Population themed characteristics, down to small areas and sub-groups, in relation to: housing; travel and transport; education and training; ethnicity, identity and religion; health and care; and the labour market.

It is a vital resource for population and household estimates as well as for a range of characteristics that can be used in detailed multivariate analysis down to very fine levels of geographic detail with information available from the national level down to Census Output Area level.

The Census Access Project ensured that the basic Census 2001 data was made freely available, unlike previous years. In addition to the datasets available through the Neighbourhood Statistics Service (NeSS) website ([www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk](http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk)), the full Census datasets can also be obtained in DVD or CD-ROM format from Census Customer Services: [www.statistics.gov.uk/census2001/customerservices.asp](http://www.statistics.gov.uk/census2001/customerservices.asp).

Additional custom datasets can also be commissioned for a fee, with all commissioned output being subsequently made available free to all users at: [www.statistics.gov.uk/census2001/op15.asp](http://www.statistics.gov.uk/census2001/op15.asp).

#### *B.2 English Index of Multiple Deprivation 2004/English Indices of Deprivation 2004*

##### **Introduction**

The English Index of Multiple Deprivation 2004 (IMD 2004)<sup>9</sup> is the most recent comprehensive measure of multiple deprivation available across England. It is an update and extension of the

<sup>8</sup> The full report is available from: OCSI (2006), *Research Report 21: Data Provision for Neighbourhood Renewal: Final Report* (London: ODPN). See website: [www.neighbourhood.gov.uk/publications.asp?did=1705](http://www.neighbourhood.gov.uk/publications.asp?did=1705)

<sup>9</sup> The Indices of Deprivation 2004 were developed by the Social Disadvantage Research Centre team at Oxford University for the Office for the Deputy Prime Minister Neighbourhood Renewal Unit. A revised version was released in June 2004. See website: [www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1128440](http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1128440)

Index of Multiple Deprivation 2000 (IMD 2000), with new information included alongside more recent data.

### ***What is the Index used for?***

The government has used the IMD 2000 and IMD 2004 extensively for allocating funding, including the Single Regeneration Budget, Neighbourhood Renewal Fund, New Deal for Communities, and Neighbourhood Management schemes. Additionally, Regional Development Agencies, Learning and Skills Council and the National Lottery have allocated funding for a range of programmes using the IMD 2000. Exemption from stamp duty on property purchases is also available for properties in the most deprived areas. Additionally, large numbers of local and regional government programmes have been targeted using the IMD 2000 and IMD 2004.

### ***The seven domains of deprivation***

As the name suggests, the IMD 2004 is based on the idea of *multiple deprivation*, with different forms of deprivation measurable in different ways. The IMD 2004 is based around seven *domains* of deprivation. Each domain contains a number of individual measures or indicators, with the entire IMD 2004 based on 37 indicators. The seven domains of deprivation are:

- Employment deprivation;
- Income deprivation;
- Health deprivation and disability;
- Education, skills and training deprivation;
- Crime;
- Living environment deprivation; and
- Barriers to housing and services.

Within each domain the indicators are combined to create a domain-level score, which measures the levels of deprivation in an area. Ranking the scores across England enables comparisons to be drawn on the level of deprivation between different areas. To produce the overall IMD 2004, the scores of all seven domains are combined.<sup>10</sup>

### ***The English Indices of Deprivation 2004***

The English Indices of Deprivation 2004 (ID 2004) consist of the main IMD 2004, as well as separate scores for the seven domains of deprivation, two additional indices of income deprivation in children and older people, and six district and county level summary scores. Taken together, the indices are referred to as the ID 2004. For full details of the ID 2004 measures see below.

<sup>10</sup> The scores are combined to minimise *cancellation*, so that, for example, an area with relatively high levels of employment deprivation but relatively low levels of health deprivation is scored as being more deprived than an area that has relatively average levels of deprivation in both employment and health deprivation. See 'The English Indices of Deprivation 2004' ODPM report for full details, available from [www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1128440](http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1128440).

### ***The IMD 2004 Geography***

The IMD 2004 has been created at Census Super Output Area (SOA) lower layer level. SOAs are a new type of geographical area created for the 2001 Census, intended to be the standard area unit at which information is released in the future. Lower layer SOAs have an average population of 1,500 people.

This detailed small area level geography enables pockets of deprivation to be identified that can be obscured by measurements at county, district, or even ward level (the IMD 2000 was released at ward-level). In particular, deprived areas that are part of larger more affluent wards can now be identified.

In addition to the lower layer SOA information, the IMD 2004 scores have been released as district and county level summaries. These detail a number of summary scores, including the average scores and ranks of the SOAs within each district and county, and the proportion of the local population living in the most deprived 10% of all SOAs across the country.

### ***What information is available?***

DCLG has published the full IMD 2004 along with the seven domains and six sub-domains (three of the domains are split into two sub-domains). The children and older people affected by income deprivation indices, and the district and county level summaries have also been published. The indicators underlying the IMD 2004 are currently being released through the ONS Neighbourhood Statistics website. The Primary Care Trust level summaries are also not yet available.

### ***B.3 Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) benefits datasets***

The DWP have published a series of benefit datasets at small area level (down to 2003 ward-level from 2001 to 2003 and lower layer SOA for 2004 and subsequent years). These datasets are currently updated annually and quarterly. Data are available for all the benefits detailed below.

#### ***Child Benefit***

*Note Child Benefit is now administered through HM Revenue and Customs; however we have left in this section for clarity.*

Child Benefit was introduced in 1977. It replaced Family Allowance which was a benefit payable to families with two or more children. Child Benefit brought all children into the scheme. The benefit is designed to help with the extra costs of bringing up a child. It is a universal benefit payable to all parents/guardians in Great Britain. The benefit is not income related, is not taxable and is not based on National Insurance contributions. Child Benefit is payable to the parents or guardians of all children under 16 years of age, normally the mother. If a child, over 16, is in full-time education, the benefit may be paid until they reach 19. Child benefit is also paid for a short period to 16 or 17 year olds who have just left school and are registered for work or work-based training. There is a higher payment for the eldest child and a lower rate for all subsequent children.

#### ***State Pension***

State Pension is a non-means-tested benefit payable to all men over 65 and women over 60. The level of pension depends on the amount of National Insurance contributions paid over the claimants working life (although contributions paid by a spouse may also be eligible).

### ***Pension Credit***

Pension Credit, is an entitlement for people aged 60 and over living in Great Britain. It is not necessary to have paid National Insurance contributions to be eligible.

There are two parts to Pension Credit: the guarantee credit and the savings credit. The guarantee credit provides financial help for people aged 60 or over whose income is below a certain level set by the law. The level that applies depends on your circumstances; this is the standard, minimum guarantee. The awarded amount will depend on other sources of income, such as other pensions and savings. Extra amounts will be added to the standard minimum guarantee for those who have:

- relevant housing costs;
- severe disabilities; and
- caring responsibilities.

The savings credit is an extra amount for people aged 65 or over who have made some provision for their retirement (such as savings or a second pension) which brings their income above a level set by Parliament, called the 'savings credit threshold'. The aim is to reward pensioners who have modest income or savings. You can get a savings credit on top of a guarantee credit. You may still get a savings credit even if your income is above the standard minimum guarantee level.

### ***Income Support***

Income Support is a non-contributory benefit. From October 1996, the Jobseeker's Allowance replaced Income Support for unemployed people. In general Income Support is now only available to people who are not required to be available for work such as pensioners, lone parents, sick and disabled people.

### ***Jobseeker's Allowance***

Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) replaced Unemployment Benefit and Income Support for unemployed people in October 1996. It is payable to people under pensionable age who are available for, and actively seeking, work of at least 40 hours a week. Certain groups of people may be able to restrict their availability to less than 40 hours depending upon their personal circumstances. There are contribution-based and income-based routes of entry to JSA, which is paid at standard rates. Those who have paid sufficient National Insurance contributions receive contribution-based JSA for up to six months. Those who do not qualify for, or whose needs are not met by, contribution-based JSA, may qualify for income-based help for themselves and their dependants. There is the additional condition for income-based JSA that if a person has a working partner then that partner must work less than 24 hours a week on average. This help will continue for as long as it is needed, provided that the qualifying conditions continue to be met.

### ***Attendance Allowance***

Attendance Allowance, introduced in December 1971, is a weekly benefit for people aged 65 or over, who need help with personal care because of illness or disability. For example, a person may qualify for Attendance Allowance if they have difficulty with washing, dressing or similar tasks.

***Disability Living Allowance***

Disability Living Allowance replaced and extended Attendance Allowance and Mobility Allowance in April 1992. It is paid to people who become disabled before the age of 65.

***Incapacity Benefit***

Incapacity Benefit replaced Invalidity and Sickness Benefit in April 1995. It is paid to people who are assessed as being incapable of work and who meet the appropriate contribution conditions.

***Severe Disablement Allowance***

Severe Disablement Allowance was introduced in November 1984 to replace the non-contributory Invalidity Pension and Housewives non-contributory Invalidity Pension. It is paid to those who cannot work because of a severe illness or disability but do not satisfy the contribution conditions for Incapacity Benefit. However, a person cannot claim Severe Disablement Allowance if they already get Incapacity Benefit. The benefit is not income related, is not taxable and is not based on National Insurance contributions. Claimants must have been aged between 16 and 65 when they made their claim, though there is no upper limit for receiving the allowance once it is awarded.

New claimants have not been able to claim Severe Disablement Allowance since 2002 so numbers of claimants are falling; for that reason DWP now combine Severe Disablement Allowance statistics with Incapacity Benefit statistics

***B.4 Mid-Year Estimates (ONS)***

The ONS publishes annual estimates of the population at district level and upwards. The estimates are available at local authority/health area level by 5-year age group and sex, including additional selected age groups.

The estimated resident population of an area includes all people who usually live there, whatever their nationality. Members of HM and US Armed Forces in England and Wales are included on a residential basis wherever possible. HM Forces stationed outside England and Wales are not included. Students are taken to be resident at their term time address.

***B.5 Pupil Level Annual School Census (PLASC), Department for Education and Skills (DfES)***

Since January 2002 it has been a statutory requirement for all maintained primary, middle, secondary and special schools to provide an electronic pupil level school Census return. This process is called the PLASC. From January 2003, information was also collected on independent special schools.

It is important to emphasise that the pupil information is recorded for the pupil's home postcode, not the school postcode, so aggregate information can be presented on the basis of pupil's residential areas and not simply to the schools they attend. The PLASC dataset records a number of relevant pieces of information, including pupil postcode, Free School Meal status and Special Educational Needs.

The National Pupil Database (NPD) records pupil level information on all Key Stage exams, for pupils attending both maintained and independent schools. The NPD dataset is linked to the PLASC dataset by DfES using unique pupil identifiers.

No data at pupil level are published by schools, LEAs or the DfES and all data are held under strict security arrangements.

Information is available from the national level down to 2003 ward-level.

### ***B.6 Recorded Offences (Home Office)***

Notifiable offences recorded by the police. The crime rates are estimates based on resident population (or, number of households in the case of burglary). It is not easy to calculate a 'population at risk' denominator for all crime types that accurately represents number of potential victims e.g. includes commuters and visitors or measures the number of vehicles on a street that could be stolen. These rates should therefore be treated with caution.

Information is currently available at Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) level up to national level.

### ***B.7 Annual Business Inquiry (ABI) and Inter-Departmental Business Register (IDBR)***

The ABI is a new business survey that collects both employment and financial information. This survey replaces the Annual Employment Survey as the source of information on employee jobs. For more details see [www.nomisweb.co.uk/articles/ref/ABI\\_lmt\\_may2000.pdf](http://www.nomisweb.co.uk/articles/ref/ABI_lmt_may2000.pdf)

ONS maintains a record of businesses on its IDBR. The IDBR contains information on the enterprise, and on the local units linked to each enterprise. It is updated regularly from both ONS' own survey information and from administrative sources. It provides a comprehensive business register with well over two million local units. The sample for the ABI is drawn from the IDBR. The sample is drawn at the reporting unit level, with approximately 78,000 reporting units are selected for each year's survey.

Access to ABI data is restricted, you must first obtain a Chancellor of the Exchequer's Notice from ONS (except for some central government departments) using the application form available at: [www.nomisweb.co.uk/articles/ref/abi\\_notice\\_application.pdf](http://www.nomisweb.co.uk/articles/ref/abi_notice_application.pdf)

### ***B.8 Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) and New Earnings Survey (NES)***

The ASHE is a new survey that has been developed to replace the NES. The ASHE includes improvements to the coverage of employees and to the weighting of earnings estimates. The data variables collected remain broadly the same, although an improved questionnaire was introduced for the 2005 survey. The change in methodology means that statistics on pay and hours published from the ASHE, including the calculation of ONS's low pay statistics, are discontinuous with previous NES surveys.

The new ASHE earnings figures supercede the previously published NES figures, including those obtained from NOMIS. Earnings data will remain available in the NOMIS local authority profiles with ASHE results replacing the NES figures. The latest 2004 ASHE results together with a back series to 1998 can be downloaded from the main National Statistics site at: [www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=13101](http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=13101).

### ***B.9 Annual Population Survey (APS) and Labour Force Survey (LFS)***

The APS is a new survey which includes the annual LFS plus a new sample boost aimed at achieving a minimum sample of 500 economically active adults in local authority districts in England. The size of the total APS sample is approximately 500,000 people.

The first APS data published are for the period January to December 2004. Subsequently, APS data will be published quarterly with each publication covering a year's data. That is, data for April 2004 to March 2005 was published in September 2005, data for July 2004 to June 2005 was published in December 2005.

Like the local area LFS data set, the APS data is published by local authority area. However, it contains an enhanced range of variables providing a greater level of detail about the resident household population of an area. In particular, more variables are provided on ethnic group, health and gender. User-defined tabulations can be requested from ONS's tabulation service at: [lfs.dataservice@ons.gov.uk](mailto:lfs.dataservice@ons.gov.uk).

APS estimates replace those previously obtained from the local area LFS in local authority profiles. The APS supercedes the existing two LFS data sets: the local area LFS and the quarterly LFS. These will remain online for users wishing to access data for time-series but will no longer be updated.

Two further APS data sets will be added at later dates. One will provide information about the workplace population of an area, and the other will provide information on commuting patterns (i.e. travel-to-work flows between local authorities). Although workplace information was collected in the LFS, it was never previously published.

Data from the APS are published through NOMIS and Neighbourhood Statistics.

## Annex C: Description of Main Data-Sources

### *C.1 Neighbourhood Statistics [neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk](http://neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk)*

- **Recent releases:**

[neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/Info.do?page=News.htm](http://neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/Info.do?page=News.htm)

- **Forthcoming datasets:**

[neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/Info.do?page=ComingSoon.htm](http://neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/Info.do?page=ComingSoon.htm)

- **Indicator Catalogue (lists all NeSS datasets by theme):**

[neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/datasetList.do?Contract1=1&\\$ph=60&updateRequired=true&step=1&CurrentTreeIndex=-1#1](http://neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/datasetList.do?Contract1=1&$ph=60&updateRequired=true&step=1&CurrentTreeIndex=-1#1)

The concept for the NeSS, a joint initiative of ONS and the NRU, was set out in the PAT 18 report on better information for dealing with social exclusion. A commitment to NeSS was included in the key recommendations of the National Strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal, and NeSS now represents a major and expanding source of small-area statistics covering a wide range of topic areas.

The PAT 18 report set out the domain headings of access to services; community wellbeing (and social environment); crime and safety; economic deprivation; education, skills and training; health and care; housing; physical environment; and work deprivation. Since 2001 many further resources have been developed including access to the Census of Population 2001, the release of the ID 2004, classification of local areas and, and an expanding range of further data sets relating to people and society.

Current subject areas include:

- 2001 Census;
- Access to services;
- Community well-being/social environment;
- Crime and safety;
- Economic deprivation;
- Education, skills and training;
- Health and care;
- Housing;
- Indicators;
- English Indices of Deprivation and classifications;



- People and environment; and
- Work deprivation.

Most data are currently available for areas down to the level of wards. Data relating to the period 1998–2001 tend to be provided on 1998 ward boundaries. Data referring to the period from 2001 on tend to be provided on 2003 ward boundaries.

2001 Census of Population data are also available for much smaller ‘Output Areas’. Output areas are relatively homogenous areas with around 125 household in each and are the smallest geographical building block for Census information.

The NeSS web resource allows data to be selected either by theme or through the use of interactive maps. Data can also be mapped on the web although mapping data for wards cannot be completed whilst retaining topographic base map details. Ward profiles based on 2001 Census data are also available. The web resource includes point data relating to secondary schools and legal advice centres. This is likely to be extended to other types of schools and to some aspects of health services over the next 6–18 months.

Considerable volumes of additional data are already in the pipeline for publication via NeSS and a significant range of further data are also being considered for possible inclusion over the remaining scheduled life of NeSS development.

## ***C.2 Floor Targets Interactive ([www.neighbourhood.gov.uk/fti.asp](http://www.neighbourhood.gov.uk/fti.asp))***

The NRU Floor Targets Interactive website is a web-based system for monitoring progress towards national Public Service Agreement Floor Targets. Floor Targets Interactive enables users to examine how the performance of local authorities contributes towards national targets.

The data underpinning the system have been brought together from across Government to provide a single resource for users. This data can be manipulated within the system to produce a range of analyses and illustrative maps.

The system currently includes data on 27 key indicators relating to national floor targets and covers local authorities in England. Most data are provided at local authority level. Data are included that mirrors the way in which the relevant government department is monitoring the target (usually at the national level) and, where possible, provides equivalent data at the local authority level.

Data can be manipulated on the system to compare particular authorities against other authorities or groups of authorities including regional and national benchmarks. Data can be mapped at regional and sub-regional levels. Data can also be downloaded in spreadsheet format.

The starting year is 1997 and where possible data are provide from 1997 to the most recent available. The time period over which data are actually available varies for different indices.

### C.3 NOMIS ([www.nomisweb.co.uk](http://www.nomisweb.co.uk))

- Recent news: [www.nomisweb.co.uk/home/news.asp](http://www.nomisweb.co.uk/home/news.asp)
- Forthcoming datasets: [www.nomisweb.co.uk/articles/ref/release\\_dates.asp](http://www.nomisweb.co.uk/articles/ref/release_dates.asp)

The NOMIS website provides an extensive range of government statistical information on the UK labour market and businesses including employment, unemployment, vacancies, businesses, earnings and other topics.

**Unemployment:** includes up-to-date data on unemployed claimants down to ward or postcode level including a breakdown by sex, age and how long people have been unemployed. The claimant count excludes those who are unemployed but not eligible to claim benefits but has the advantage of up-to-date cover down to small geographical units.

**Employment:** includes numbers of people employed in different industrial sectors to quite a fine degree of detail, down to ward-level. It includes a breakdown by sex and whether people are working part-time or full-time. Data are annual with 2002 the latest currently available. Confidentiality means that not all data are available for smaller geographical areas i.e. local authority district and below. Access is restricted to registered users (see website for information). Local authorities will usually have access and are a potential source of this information – although there are restrictions as to what information can be made available to others.

**Population:** includes mid-year population estimates down to local authority district level, broken down by age and sex. This is useful as a baseline measure of the local population, particularly as the Census of Population becomes more dated – local authorities will typically have figures based on the mid-year estimates, broken down to ward-level.

**Businesses:** includes numbers of businesses in existence at the start of the year together with the number of new business start-ups and numbers ceasing to trade over the period. Data are available at local authority level and can be broken down by industry sector. Figures are based on VAT data so exclude smaller businesses that do not reach the threshold above which VAT is payable.

### C.4 *Renewal.net* ([www.renewal.net](http://www.renewal.net))

Renewal.net is the on-line guide to neighbourhood renewal and contains a range of documents and toolkits as well as evidence-based case studies and project summaries of neighbourhood renewal strategies. These are broken down into six key themes:

**Housing and environment:** Focusing on strategies need to address issues of tenure and wider neighbourhood management, as well as the quality of the stock and standards of housing management.

**Worklessness:** Looking at all those who are out of work but who would like a job covering unemployed claimants; those who are actively out of work and looking for a job; and those who are economically inactive.

**Education:** Focusing largely on issues relating to educational difficulties among children such as low levels of child attainment and behavioural problems.

**Crime:** Looking at strategies dealing with key offences, and perception and fear of crime.

**Health:** Examining the roots of ill health and socio-economic explanations of inequalities in health.

**Local Economies:** Looking at issues in deprived neighbourhoods and opportunities in the wider economy.

### *C.5 DWP Statistics website*

*([www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/neighbourhood/neighbourhood.asp](http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/neighbourhood/neighbourhood.asp))*

The DWP provide a range of key benefits datasets at sub-district level. Data are available for England, Wales and Scotland and are currently updated annually although there are moves towards quarterly updates. Data are available in downloadable Excel format.

The benefit datasets included are

- Attendance Allowance;
- Disability Living Allowance;
- Incapacity Benefit and Severe Disablement Allowance;
- Income Support;
- Job Seekers Allowance;
- Pension Credit; and
- State Pension.

See Section A.3 (above) for more detail on the datasets

### *C.6 Audit Commission Area Profiles ([www.areaprofiles.audit-commission.gov.uk](http://www.areaprofiles.audit-commission.gov.uk))*

The Audit Commission Area Profiles provide a wide-ranging picture of the quality of life and public services in a local area. They bring together data, information and assessments for every local authority area in England. Data are available for each local authority selected and is downloadable in Excel format. Not all data are available at local authority level; for example where data are only held for larger geographies such as LEAs or PCTs. Also there are no sub-district level data.

Component datasets are grouped under 10 quality of life themes:

- **Community Cohesion and Involvement:** includes data on electoral participation and race relations.
- **Community Safety:** includes data on major crime types, fire, perception of crime, and graffiti and drunken behaviour.

- **Culture and Leisure:** access to libraries, sports facilities, cultural facilities and green spaces data.
- **Economic Well Being:** includes data on economic activity, VAT-registered businesses, IMD 2004, free school meal eligibility, perceptions of job prospects and cost of living.
- **Education and Life Long Learning:** includes data on adult skill levels including poor literacy and numeracy skills and child education attainment.
- **Environment:** includes data on pollution levels, cleanliness and litter, recycling and derelict land.
- **Health and Social Well Being:** includes data on life expectancy, age standardised mortality rates from selected conditions, vaccination records and perceptions of PCT performance.
- **Housing:** includes data on housing affordability, tenure, amenities, overcrowding and housing type.
- **People and Place:** includes key demographic information including age, sex and ethnicity.
- **Transport and Access:** includes data on method and distance of travel to work and road accident casualties.

## Annex D: Locally-Held Datasets

### *D.1 Introduction*

This section provides a list of data sets which may be held by local partners. This is not a completely comprehensive and verified list but it draws on the research carried out by ONS under the Locally-Held Administration Datasets (LHAD) project supported by the Neighbourhood Statistics project. It also draws on OCSI's interviews with key stakeholders, analysis of Local Information Systems, information provided by two NRF areas (Luton and Rotherham), and information provided by two of the Supporting Evidence for Local Delivery pilots at the South-West Observatory and RegenWM. The key local datasets highlighted below have not been incorporated into the web or Excel resources developed as outputs for this project. Local partners may find it useful to examine this list to identify what sources of data may be held locally and who might hold it.

### *D.2 Availability of datasets*

It is important to emphasise that although these datasets may be held by local agencies, access to the information will depend on whether the data can be extracted and aggregated to small area level, and/or shared with other partners. This is likely to be different for different areas, service providers and datasets. Whether datasets are available at small area level, or regularly updated, will also be dependent upon the nature of the systems used to hold and process the data by local providers. For example crime data may be linked to national grid points, or held at Police "Beat" level, or in some other way such as postcoded. In some cases it may be straightforward to aggregate to standard small areas, but in other cases this may be difficult and require substantial resources. For this reason we have not indicated at what level data is available at, and for what time periods. The table indicates the likely holder at local level of each dataset. However this may vary depending on the organisational structure of local agencies.

Table D.1: Full list of locally-held datasets

Key Floor Target area	Potential Dataset	Potential Data Source	Likely Data Owner
Crime and Community Safety	Alarming Incidents	Register of reported incidents	LA Housing
Crime and Community Safety	Breaches of entertainment licenses	Case records	LA Licensing
Crime and Community Safety	Crime – all recorded offences	Recorded offences	Police Force
Crime and Community Safety	Crime – burglaries	Recorded offences	Police Force
Crime and Community Safety	Crime – domestic violence offences	Recorded offences	Police Force
Crime and Community Safety	Crime – robberies	Recorded offences	Police Force
Crime and Community Safety	Crime – theft from vehicle offences	Recorded offences	Police Force
Crime and Community Safety	Crime – theft of vehicle offences	Recorded offences	Police Force
Crime and Community Safety	Crime – violent offences	Recorded offences	Police Force
Crime and Community Safety	Deliberate Fires		Fire Service
Crime and Community Safety	Delinquent school pupils	Client Case Records	LEA
Crime and Community Safety	Noise Incidents and Breaches of Regulations	Record of incidents and breaches of regulations/Record of Complaints	LA Environmental Health/Housing
Crime and Community Safety	Perpetrators of violence	Client case records	LA Social Services
Crime and Community Safety	Pupils involved in sale or use of drugs	Client Case Records	LA Youth and Community
Crime and Community Safety	Racial incidents per 100,000 head of population		Police
Crime and Community Safety	Residents concerns about crime	Database of concerns reported by residents	LA Dog and Civic Wardens
Crime and Community Safety	Unpaid parking fines	Fine records	LA Highways & Parking
Crime and Community Safety	Vehicle Fires		Fire Service
Crime and Community Safety	Young peoples' concerns and incidents of anti-social behaviour	Programme records	LEA
Crime and Community Safety	Youth Nuisance Rate	Reported incidents of Youth Nuisance	Police Force
Deprivation and Low Income	Housing/Council Tax Benefit Recipients	Rebate/Benefit records	LA Benefits and Rebates
Deprivation and Low Income	Residents in arrears with Council Tax payments	Revenue collection systems	LA Revenue Management
Deprivation and Low Income/Housing	Tenants in arrears with rent	Rent collection systems	LA Housing
Deprivation and Low Income/Education	Pupils receiving Free School Meals	Record of Awards	LEA
Deprivation and Low Income/Education	Assisted Students	Award and loan records	LEA
Education	% Access to nursery places for 3 & 4 year olds		LEA
Education	Adult Clients of Careers Advice Service	Client records	LA Careers Service
Education	Adult Students	Student Records	LA Adult Education Service
Education	Applicants to Higher Education	Fee and funding applications	LEA
Education	Children participating in out of school activities	Records of activities and attendance	LEA
Education	Children receiving musical tuition	Tuition records	LEA
Education	Children working	Permit records	LEA
Education	Children working in entertainment	Licence records	LEA

Table D.1: Full list of locally-held datasets (continued)

Key Floor Target area	Potential Dataset	Potential Data Source	Likely Data Owner
Education	Participants in Duke of Edinburgh award	Record of Award Participants	LA Youth and Community
Education	Providers of Play Groups and Facilities	Database of providers/facilities for play/Planning information	LA Childcare Information Service/LA Education – Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership
Education	Pupil attainment, Key Stage 1 to 5 exams	Key Stage attainment record	LEA
Education	Pupils attaining cycling proficiency	Course records	LEA
Education	Pupils receiving School Transport	Record of Awards	LEA
Education	School capacity, applications and vacant places	School Planning systems	LEA
Education	School Governors	Register of Governors	LEA
Education	Schools with Nurseries	List of nurseries/Pupil records of school nursery departments and non-school nursery providers	LEA/LA Childcare Information Service
Education	Young people – Careers Advice Clients	Client records	Connexions
Education	Young people participating in further/higher education	Student Records	Learning and Skills Councils
Education	Youths participating in training	Training records	LA Youth and Community
Education/Employment and enterprise	People Not in Education Employment or Training (NEET)		Connexions
Employment and enterprise	Associated changes in workforces	Planning application case records	LA Planning
Employment and enterprise	Broadband Coverage (%) – Number of Registered Businesses		LA Economic Development
Employment and enterprise	Business Properties and Rates	Business rates register	LA Business rates
Employment and enterprise	Businesses and Breaches of Trading Standards Regulations	Directory of businesses Customer	LA Trading Standards
Employment and enterprise	Businesses and Workforce	Client records	Business Link
Employment and enterprise	Businesses and Workforce	Information on local labour market	LA Economic Development
Employment and enterprise	Location of Inward investment	Case and project records	LA Economic Development
Employment and enterprise	People attending courses who start-up businesses	Course records	LA Adult Education Service
Employment and enterprise	Second-hand goods dealers	Register	LA Trading Standards
Employment and enterprise	External funding, eg European Social Fund, National lottery etc	External Funding Database	LA
General	Profiles of regeneration areas – local administrative data sources	Programme records	LA Economic Development
General	Profiles of Rural Development Areas – local administrative data sources	Programme records	LA Rural Development
General	Record of Enquiries, Complaints and Applications for various services	CRM system	LA customer relations

Table D.1: Full list of locally-held datasets (continued)

Key Floor Target area	Potential Dataset	Potential Data Source	Likely Data Owner
Health	A&E cases involving Drug and Alcohol related abuse	Case records	PCT – Accident and Emergency Units
Health	A&E Cases involving self-harm	Case records	PCT – Accident and Emergency Units
Health	Analysis of patient service needs		PCT – Community systems
Health	Analysis of types of referrals		PCT – Community systems
Health	Analysis of uptake of GP services – maternity/contraception/vaccinations		PCT – National Health Applications and Infrastructure Service – Exeter Systems
Health	Approved Home Care Providers (two datasets: Adults and Children)	Directory of Home care providers	LA Social Services
Health	Care provision	Client Case Records	LA Social Services
Health	Child A&E attendances		PCT – Child Health
Health	Children at risk – registrations on Child Protection Register	Child Protection Register registrations	PCT – Child Health/Social Services
Health	Children Looked After	Client case records/Contribution records	LA Social Services
Health	Children with Disabilities (inc. pre-school children)	Client Case Records	LA Social Services
Health	Children with sensory or physical disability	Client Case Records	LEA
Health	Clinic “non-attenders”		PCT – Community systems
Health	Clinic locations and types of services provided	could be collected as part of compiling digitally mapped directory of local services and analysis of access	PCT – Community systems
Health	Concessionary fare pass holders	Permit records	LA Benefits and Rebates
Health	Deaf People	Client Case Records	LA Social Services
Health	Disabled Clients	Permit issue records	LA Highways & Parking
Health	Disabled Clients, allocation of equipment	Client Case Records	LA Occupational Therapy
Health	Disabled patients – by type of disability		PCT – Community systems
Health	Families wishing to adopt	Client case records	LA Social Services
Health	Foster Carers	Carers database	LA Social Services
Health	HIV sufferers	Client Case Records	LA Social Services
Health	Incidence of types of accident		PCT – Accident and Emergency Units
Health	Indicators of baby health	gestation period/birth weight	PCT – Child Health
Health	Indicators of disease prevention/impact of public health programmes	Take up of vaccinations/immunisations	PCT – Child Health
Health	Indicators of early years health	Results of pre-school entry and school entry reviews	PCT – Child Health
Health	Indicators of infant health	Neo-natal screening results	PCT – Child Health



Table D.1: Full list of locally-held datasets (continued)

Key Floor Target area	Potential Dataset	Potential Data Source	Likely Data Owner
Health	Infant Mortality		Primary Care Trust
Health	Life Expectancy		Primary Care Trust
Health	Low Birth Weight		Primary Care Trust
Health	Mortality		Primary Care Trust
Health	Number of children in need		LA Social Services
Health	Number of clients receiving care from Social Services	Number of clients registered with SS care management systems	LA Social Services
Health	Number of registered blue badge (disabled parking concessions) holders		LA Social Services
Health	Older People Requiring Care	Client Case Records	LA Social Services
Health	Older people using HandyVan service	Client records	LA Social Services
Health	Parents with children with special needs	Client case records	LEA
Health	People in need	Client records	LA Social Services
Health	People with addictive behaviour e.g. drug and alcohol related	Client Case Records	LA Social Services
Health	People with mental health problems	Client Case Records	LA Social Services
Health	People with Physical and Learning Disabilities	Client Case Records	LA Social Services
Health	Persons approved to look after children	Record of guardians	LA Social Services
Health	Service outreach – number of visits by community health workers	number of visits by community health workers	PCT – Community systems
Health	Social emergency incidents	Record of emergency incidents	LA Social Services
Health	Teenage pregnancy	ONS datasets	Primary Care Trust
Health	Uptake of breast feeding		PCT – Child Health
Health	Visually Impaired People	Client case records	LA Social Services
Health	Young people with learning, behaviour, social and emotional difficulties	Client Case Records	LEA
Health/Education	Pupils from travellers/pupils of asylum seekers and refugees/pupils from ethnic minorities	Pupil Records	LEA
Health/Education	Pupils with Special Educational Needs	Pupil Records	LEA
Health/Housing	Residents in sheltered housing	Housing and client case records	LA Housing & Social Services
Housing	Addresses of patients living in poor housing	Patient Records	Health Service
Housing	Change of tenure	Register of sales	LA Housing
Housing	Comments by residents on planning applications	Planning application case records	LA Planning
Housing	Council property locations	Register of Council properties	LA Land and Property management
Housing	Home repair/improvement grants and housing conditions	Register of Enquiries/Grant records	LA Housing

**Table D.1: Full list of locally-held datasets (continued)**

Key Floor Target area	Potential Dataset	Potential Data Source	Likely Data Owner
Housing	Homeless and others waiting for housing	Homeless cases/Housing waiting lists	LA Housing
Housing	Homes adapted for disabled	Client Case Records	LA Social Services
Housing	Housing condition	Housing stock surveys/ Planning Surveys	LA Housing/LA Planning
Housing	New Building and improvements	Case records	LA Planning
Housing	New Homes on Brown Field Sites by type, size, tenure, area and density of houses	Annual returns prepared by District and Unitary authorities as part of the Regional Plan monitoring process	LA Housing
Housing	Number of House Completions Each Year	Annual returns prepared by District and Unitary authorities as part of the Regional Plan monitoring process	LA Housing
Housing	Number of Residents on Local Authority Housing Register	Housing Investment Programme Data	LA Housing
Housing	Standards of Housing – Incidents and breaches of regulations	Record of incidents and breaches of regulations	LA Environmental Health
Housing	Total stock of dwellings in the area by council tax band	Council Tax system	
Housing	Total Stock of Local Authority Dwellings	Housing Investment Programme Data	LA Housing
Housing	Vacant housing	Housing stock surveys	LA Housing
Liveability	Arts organisations and membership	Grants records	Arts Council
Liveability	Bus routes and timetables	Database of subsidised routes	LA Transport
Liveability	Children walking to school	Register	LEA
Liveability	Claims arising from accidents due to poor condition of roads or footpaths	Register of claims	LA Legal Services
Liveability	Cleanliness of streets	Street cleaning records	LA Waste Management
Liveability	Comments by residents on New Road proposals	Project records	LA Highways & Parking
Liveability	Complaints about condition of footways	Record of complaints	LA Highways & Parking
Liveability	Complaints of refuse and household waste not collected	Collection records	LA Waste Management
Liveability	Condition of roads	Maintenance records, Engineering records	LA Highways & Parking
Liveability	Customers/usage of CAB	Client records	Citizen Advice Bureau
Liveability	Customers for composting bins	Customer records	LA Waste Management
Liveability	Defects repaired	Record of defects	LA Highways & Parking
Liveability	Enquiries on concessionary travel	Register of Enquiries	LA Social Services
Liveability	Enquiries on equal opportunity policy	Record of enquiries	Equal Opportunities
Liveability	Enquiries on EU Programmes	Record of enquiries	LA International
Liveability	Enquiries on mobility issues	Register of enquiries	LA Highways & Parking

Table D.1: Full list of locally-held datasets (continued)

Key Floor Target area	Potential Dataset	Potential Data Source	Likely Data Owner
Liveability	Enquiries on waste recycling	Register of enquiries	LA Waste Management
Liveability	Enquiries on town and parish councils	Register of enquiries	Parish and Town Councils
Liveability	Environmental protection – Incidents and breaches of regulations	Record of incidents and breaches of regulations	LA Environmental Health
Liveability	Faulty street lighting	Register of reported faults	LA Highways & Parking
Liveability	Food Producers and Retailers	Membership records/ Client and course records	LA Consumer Affairs/LA Education – Food Safety
Liveability	Incidents of Abandoned Vehicles	Incident Log	LA Highways & Parking
Liveability	Incidents of Dog Fouling/ Cleanliness of Streets (two datasets)	Register of incidents	LA Dog and Civic Wardens/LA Environmental Health
Liveability	Inspections of Registers	Record of inspections	LA Customer relations
Liveability	Journeys by mode of transport (Transport Surveys)	Local transport surveys	LA Transport
Liveability	Library users	Library user surveys	LA Libraries
Liveability	Local producers of food and goods	Database	LA Consumer Affairs
Liveability	Location/usage of information and advice centres for Young People	Register of information and advice centres	Connexions
Liveability	Location and date of farmers markets	Database of Farmers markets	LA Consumer Affairs
Liveability	Location and date of markets	Register	LA Leisure, Recreation and Sport
Liveability	Location and usage of Youth Centres	Register	LA Youth and Community
Liveability	Location of Allotments	Register of Allotments	LA Leisure, Recreation and Sport
Liveability	Location of car parks	Car parks database	LA Highways & Parking
Liveability	Location of Citizen Advice Bureau	Database of CAB advice centres	Citizen Advice Bureau
Liveability	Location of cycle routes	Cycle routes register	LA Highways & Parking
Liveability	Location of disabled parking bays	Register of disabled parking bays	LA Highways & Parking
Liveability	Location of footpaths	Register of footpaths	Parish and Town Councils/LA Highways & Parking
Liveability	Location of Information kiosks	Register of Kiosks	LA Customer relations
Liveability	Location of Leisure centres and sports facilities	Register of leisure centres and sports facilities	LA Leisure, Recreation and Sport

**Table D.1: Full list of locally-held datasets**

Key Floor Target area	Potential Dataset	Potential Data Source	Likely Data Owner
Crime and Community Safety	Alarming Incidents	Register of reported incidents	LA Housing
Crime and Community Safety	Breaches of entertainment licenses	Case records	LA Licensing
Crime and Community Safety	Crime – all recorded offences	Recorded offences	Police Force
Crime and Community Safety	Crime – burglaries	Recorded offences	Police Force
Crime and Community Safety	Crime – domestic violence offences	Recorded offences	Police Force
Crime and Community Safety	Crime – robberies	Recorded offences	Police Force
Crime and Community Safety	Crime – theft from vehicle offences	Recorded offences	Police Force
Crime and Community Safety	Crime – theft of vehicle offences	Recorded offences	Police Force
Crime and Community Safety	Crime – violent offences	Recorded offences	Police Force
Crime and Community Safety	Deliberate Fires		Fire Service
Crime and Community Safety	Delinquent school pupils	Client Case Records	LEA
Crime and Community Safety	Noise Incidents and Breaches of Regulations	Record of incidents and breaches of regulations/Record of Complaints	LA Environmental Health/Housing
Crime and Community Safety	Perpetrators of violence	Client case records	LA Social Services
Crime and Community Safety	Pupils involved in sale or use of drugs	Client Case Records	LA Youth and Community
Crime and Community Safety	Racial incidents per 100,000 head of population		Police
Crime and Community Safety	Residents concerns about crime	Database of concerns reported by residents	LA Dog and Civic Wardens
Crime and Community Safety	Unpaid parking fines	Fine records	LA Highways & Parking
Crime and Community Safety	Vehicle Fires		Fire Service
Crime and Community Safety	Young peoples' concerns and incidents of anti-social behaviour	Programme records	LEA
Crime and Community Safety	Youth Nuisance Rate	Reported incidents of Youth Nuisance	Police Force
Deprivation and Low Income	Housing/Council Tax Benefit Recipients	Rebate/Benefit records	LA Benefits and Rebates
Deprivation and Low Income	Residents in arrears with Council Tax payments	Revenue collection systems	LA Revenue Management
Deprivation and Low Income/Housing	Tenants in arrears with rent	Rent collection systems	LA Housing
Deprivation and Low Income/Education	Pupils receiving Free School Meals	Record of Awards	LEA
Deprivation and Low Income/Education	Assisted Students	Award and loan records	LEA
Education	% Access to nursery places for 3 & 4 year olds		LEA
Education	Adult Clients of Careers Advice Service	Client records	LA Careers Service
Education	Adult Students	Student Records	LA Adult Education Service
Education	Applicants to Higher Education	Fee and funding applications	LEA
Education	Children participating in out of school activities	Records of activities and attendance	LEA
Education	Children receiving musical tuition	Tuition records	LEA
Education	Children working	Permit records	LEA
Education	Children working in entertainment	Licence records	LEA

Table D.1: Full list of locally-held datasets (continued)

Key Floor Target area	Potential Dataset	Potential Data Source	Likely Data Owner
Liveability	Users of legal services	Client records	LA Legal Services
Liveability	Waste from all types of controlled waste		LA Waste Management
Liveability	Waste recycled	Collection records	LA Waste Management
Liveability	Young people – volunteers	Programme records	LA Youth and Community
Liveability	Young people participating in dance etc. events	Records of events organised and attendance	LA Youth and Community
Liveability	Young people participating in youth activities	Programme records	LA Youth and Community
Liveability	Youth Clubs and Voluntary Bodies and members	Grant records	LA Youth and Community
Population	Asylum Seekers and Refugees	Client Case Records	LA Social Services
Population	Population estimates – residence data on groups such as students, armed forces personnel or asylum seekers	Information on methods and data used to produce small-area population statistics	LA Demography

Source: OCSI 2005; Neighbourhood Statistics – Local Data Scoping Study, ONS 2003

Table taken from Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (2006) *Data Provision for Neighbourhood Renewal: Final Report* (Research Report 21) London: Office of the Deputy Prime Minister.



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*Formative evaluation of community strategies*

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