

2009-10 Performance Commentary

Service: Safer and Stronger Communities

Number of Indicators:	38
Including LAA Indicators:	11

Overview commentary on Performance Indicators achieved

All the fire related indicators are performing well above target due to a number of targeted arson reduction campaigns delivered across Cheshire East.

Violent crime and domestic abuse indicators are either performing on target or just under target. However, the figures are low compared to national/regional averages and Cheshire East is in the Top Quartile nationally for violent crime.

The anti social behaviour and criminal damage local indicators are both performing on target. ASB figures have reduced significantly throughout the last 12 months and this is largely due to the success of the 'Not in my neighbourhood weeks' that have been carried out during key times throughout the year i.e. Bonfire night and Halloween. The sub-regional Community Safety & Justice Commission will prioritise tackling ASB this year and this partnership approach will see improvements in response standards, information sharing and reporting mechanisms during 2010/11.

Business satisfaction with regulatory services is high at 87%. This is a good result when set against the backdrop of re-organisation. The ongoing drive for better regulation in 2010/11 onwards should see this indicator improve further.

Overview commentary on Performance Indicators not achieved

Although the target for serious crime was not achieved, Cheshire East is performing in the top quartile nationally.

Adult re-offending rate target was not met however the prolific and priority offenders' scheme in Cheshire East is performing well over the target and is considered to be one of the best schemes within the region.

Offenders who are in employment at the end of their Probation order has not met the target however Safer Cheshire East Partnership are now working closely with Job Centre Plus and hopefully the new working partnership will help to get more offenders back into employment.

Key challenges in achieving targets in 2009/10

Local Government Review
Uncertainty over funding streams
Vacancies in key areas such as Trading Standards

NI 190 is a new target for 2009-2010 and as such is a baseline year of data with no comparative information. However as is identified in the key challenges section there is a high likelihood that improvement on the baseline will not be seen during 2010-2011.

Key challenges in achieving targets into 2010/11

Unfilled posts/vacancies in key services of Environmental Health and Community Safety although these should be resolved during the first half of the year.

A reduction of 50% in capital allocation from the Area Based Grant and longer term concerns over revenue grant levels and allocation.

Playing our part in tackling the continued budget challenges for Cheshire East BC.

NI 190 – Due to a high number of intensive animal health investigations planned in 2010-2011 there is a high chance that this indicator will suffer as it is a measure of overall performance within animal health including the Framework Agreement set in conjunction with Defra. This has been acknowledged within the financial aspect of the Agreement and a review of the plan submitted for 2010-2011 is to be carried out to avoid any prospect of financial penalty within the grant funding arrangements.

Commentary on indicative financial outturn 2009/10

Community Safety and Regulatory Services delivered in-year savings of around £755k (over and above the £348k original savings target set during the LGR process) This was largely due to staff vacancies. However, the services have continued to perform well despite these pressures and 2010/11 should see further improvement now that resources are in place.