

Notes of The Performance Co-ordinating Group, held on 24 April 2006

The broad purpose of the meeting was to consider and agree the shape of proposals for an outcomes oriented performance assessment system and to agree how this was to be brought into being.

This sounds grand for a four-hour meeting, but the discussions were based on work done over the previous six months.

Reference was made to the creation of a Children's Working Group/Children's Performance Measurement Group with ADSS nominated children's representatives working with the DfES/CSCI etc.

It was agreed that the PCG should concentrate on Adult Social Care issues but bearing in mind the need to keep in touch with the child care agenda and the crucial need to devise a new PAF which fully incorporates both health and social care concerns. The framework will be built upon the commissioning activity of health and social care.

Lynda Fean (DH) outlined that the changes to the performance assessment agenda are being fundamentally driven by the Comprehensive Spending Review and the DH arrangements to implement Our Health, Our care, Our Say and will need to link to the Department for Communities and Local Government (DfCLG -

formerly known as ODPM) review of local government (due in summer 2006). This is being driven by the Integrated Performance Assessment Group (IPAG) and has links with DfES and DfCLG. The IPAG will use the Performance Co-ordinating Group as its main reference group. A DfCLG White Paper due in the summer will incorporate a proposal for a council wide performance assessment framework - which will incorporate (it is anticipated) the proposals agreed by the PCG.

Lynda Fean stated that on the social care side the performance assessment process had been based on a complex and evolving set of relationships, but on the Health side the performance assessment process and been starker, more linear and more demanding. The DH representatives gave assurances that the seven outcomes identified in White Paper will not change.

Lynda Fean formally commissioned the group, subject to a formal written proposal, to:

Develop a performance assessment system, which brings health and social care together, focuses on good outcomes for service users and is in line with the ODPM proposals for the future of local government.

The broad approaches outlined in papers circulated were endorsed. The ideas expressed were thought to be helpful in discussions about how to move from the proposed structure to identifying practical performance measures which:

- demonstrate outcomes for citizens receiving health and social care services,
- build on the processes we have already,
- develop to establish a true outcome framework by 2010,
- but are ready in the first instance for 2008/09, meaning the broad shape has to be agreed by early autumn 2006.

Two streams of work are to follow which relate to local authorities and ADSS:

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Alan Bunting

1. A series of workshops (up to a dozen) to be run by DH/CSCI testing out the approach to outcomes PIs discussed here and seeking advice about the detail.
2. A newly established Performance Measurement Group, which will be made up of a selection of the 30 nominees from LA's who expressed an interest in this work via ADSS.

Although there are 30 people nominated by their authorities via ADSS to work on the development of the new Performance Measurement arrangements, there are only limited networking arrangements in place to

both report back. It was suggested that:

- a) each ADSS regional branch should be asked to review the alleged relationship between LA's and CSCI - the document issued at the meeting seemed to have old arrangements on it.
- b) notes from the meeting are sent to the Chair of the ADSS Standards and Performance Committee and also sent to each Branch
- c) representatives allocated to the new group looking at detailed PIs development be asked to circulate notes of those meetings to the Chair of the ADSS Standards and Performance Committee and also sent to each Branch

Details of both these pieces of work is to follow.

There was a proposal from ADSS representatives to reduce the number of current PIs in preparation for the new arrangements (a suggestion to drop the Helped to Live at Home PIs was proposed, but these form part of the DH PSA until 2008 and are also BVPI's, so they have to

stay). Such a proposal would give some space to LA's to test new approaches and give a message that the process really was going to change. The CSCI accepted this as a reasonable proposal for consideration.

Inspection

CSCI Service Inspections are being modernised (some links with HCC) and the inspections will have space to make comment on what makes a good LA commissioner.

CSCI regulatory service inspections are being modernised and this will form a component be part of the CSSR's assessment relating to the commissioning function.

There is a proposal for all inspectorates for follow the same format for 'self assessments' to reduce the burden on LA's having to complete several at the same time.

Alan Bunting and Dave Burnham