

LINCOLNSHIRE RESEARCH OBSERVATORY

Executive Steering Group

Minutes from Meeting held on Thursday 12 July 2007

Present:

MB Acting Director of Public Health and Partnerships, Lincolnshire PCT (Chair)
JC Partnership Manager, Lincoln LSP
CT Research and Information Analyst, emda
RW GIS Officer, City of Lincoln Council
VG Project Officer, City of Lincoln Council
AH Research Officer, Boston Borough Council
BC Research Officer, West Lindsey District Council
LM Community Partnership Manager, North Kesteven LSP
SR Community Partnership Manager, North Kesteven LSP
PK External Relations and Communications Manager, JobCentre Plus
WB Programme Manager, Climate for Investment, Lincolnshire Enterprise
KM Principal Research Officer, Lincolnshire County Council
JB Head of Economic Regeneration Policy, Lincolnshire County Council
AP Research and Consultation Manager, Lincolnshire County Council
ED Senior Information Analyst, Lincolnshire PCT
BF Local Strategic Partnership Co-ordinator, East Lindsey LSP
JHa LRO Development Officer, Lincolnshire PCT

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from:

DC Research Officer, North Kesteven District Council
DJ Research and Project Officer, Learning and Skills Council
RC Operations Director, Lincolnshire Enterprise
RW Consultant in Public Health Medicine, Lincolnshire PCT
CC Partnerships Officer, South Holland District Council
RT Knowledge Director, Connexions Lincolnshire & Rutland
CD LSP Co-ordinator, South Kesteven LSP
JHo Performance Manager, Lincolnshire Police

2. Minutes from the Last Meeting

The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as a true and accurate record.

Action Points from the Last Meeting

KM is currently working with Children's Services on JAR and sharing of data.

Update on LAA will be given on item 4 of the agenda.

Update on GIS will be given on item 5 of the agenda.

3. Role of the LRO within the Local Area Agreement (LAA)

AP talked to the group about the role of the LRO in supporting the LAA. The LRO has been asked to develop a contextual evidence base on which to support the work of the LAA.

This base is most likely to take the form of an economic, social, environmental picture of the county. This has previously taken the form of the 'Drivers for Change' report. The evidence base will also be supported by the development of 'smart' indicators, themes and pre-defined maps accessible through the re-developed LRO website. It is envisaged that the written report will be published by December.

KM has agreed to attend future LAA Team meetings to ensure that the LRO is kept up to date on any changes to the themes and framework of the LAA and to ensure that these are reflected in the evidence base.

There was a discussion around the group concerning the perception of the LRO's role in collating and providing data to support the indicators within the LAA. JC asked what the role of performance management is and what the role of the LRO is. JB stated that work around the definitions is not seen as a function of the LRO. The role of the LRO in supporting the LAA should be to hold a range of contextual information providing focus, and also to help determine the impact of the LAA's activities.

MB stated that the LRO is a network of partners and not a stand-alone department. A timescale of April 2008 has been set for delivery of a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment; this is a statutory obligation for Districts and the PCT. The development of 'compelling evidence' is needed to get people to take notice.

SR said that there are currently gaps in the availability of data required for the LAA indicators. AP answered that the LAA Virtual Team are tasked with pulling performance information together. The first quarter will be revealing regarding gaps in data, it will then be possible to move forward with modifying targets. JB stated that there is currently an ongoing exercise so that the LAA can be revised with GOEM by November. Gaps in the availability of data identified by LSP's should be forwarded to the LAA Virtual Team.

PK asked if Lincolnshire is aware of how it is performing in relation to other areas.

MB stated that Lincolnshire, through the supporting infrastructure of the LRO, is much further ahead than other areas. There is still room for improvement regarding working together. Feedback from partners is needed on how the LRO works and how it can work better.

MB stated that we need to make ourselves 'Fit for Purpose', finding what works for Lincolnshire is most important. We need to be clear what we want and how we can achieve it.

JC said that there is a difference between performance information and contextual information.

AP answered that the contextual information will give a background to Lincolnshire and an understanding of issues. Work will be focussed on identifying the social, economic and environmental impacts on Lincolnshire. The document will give a short and long-term vision of Lincolnshire up to 2020. Work will also be undertaken to provide information to lower boundaries.

BC stated that West Lindsey have started work around the Gainsborough South West ward and are struggling to get data at SOA level.

AP answered that there is little information available at SOA level, ward level may be the lowest level for a lot of data.

MB said that there is a possibility of building our own area profiles which do not rely on national sources.

AP said that a copy of the specification of the report will be sent to partners to give an impression of the document and to give partners the opportunity to offer feedback on geographies and data to be featured.

Action: *JHa to send specification document to partners*

4. Future GIS Mapping Developments

PlanWeb User Feedback

JHa gave a demonstration of PlanWeb. The majority of partners now have access to PlanWeb and can view and use the range of data available, including Mosaic data. Data from partners can be added to PlanWeb and partners were reminded of the mechanisms for sharing data and encouraged to share suitable data with other partners. Requests for data upload should go to GIS@lincolnshire.gov.uk.

Action: *Partners to contact JHa if they would like a demonstration of PlanWeb*

There are currently over 1000 pieces of data available on PlanWeb including Census 2001, IMD 2004 and data from the LRO website. Open Days for Lincolnshire County Council and Lincolnshire Police staff have been held to promote PlanWeb, which has resulted in an increase in staff log-ins to PlanWeb.

Action: *Partners to contact JHa if they would like to arrange a PlanWeb Open Day for their organisation*

LRO Website

AP stated that there is now a need to move from data sharing to capacity building and turning information into intelligence. The existing LRO website was successful in enabling users to share data within a common platform but developments are now required to move it forwards. The new LRO website is expected to go live in September 2007 and following testing, be launched towards the end of the year.

Public access will allow users to construct a view and have restricted access to data and links to other public sites. Partners will have the same facilities as public access, with access to additional sources of data and a link to PlanWeb. One of the key objectives for the new LRO website is that users will be no more than three clicks away from a map.

The new LRO website will store data, documents, interactive maps and map templates. A number of smart indicators will also be developed; these will be based around one subject, for example population. Profiles will be created around a central theme, for example population change or area. A facility to create reports will be available in a later release.

JB highlighted that partners need to consider what indicators should be linked.

AP stated that help from partners will be needed to develop the smart indicators and other aspects of the website. There are a range of positive benefits and possible cash savings through GIS by rationalising mapping and Ordnance Survey mapping, for example.

The new LRO website aims to move away from solely being a 'data warehouse' to providing users with data, information and intelligence.

Action: *Partners will have the opportunity to offer input in the development of the new LRO website at the LRO Development Day on Wednesday 17th October. Partners are asked to contact Joanne Hart for further details.*

5. Development of New Information Systems

Crime Toolkit

AP explained that the crime toolkit has been designed for the Community Safety Partnerships (formally Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships) and will sit within the LRO.

MB asked how long it took to develop the crime toolkit.

AP answered that a simple page with a few variables will take two days work, a larger toolkit to view data using a combination of charts and maps, such as the crime toolkit, could take two months to create.

AP stated that toolkits could be developed around other subjects, such as health or unemployment. The facility to create toolkits will be available on the LRO website and will enable users to create their own toolkit and to make their toolkit available to other users.

BF stated that a resource is needed to look at the needs within each district. AP stated that the area profiles on the new LRO website will require input from each district. JC said that an automatic update of data onto the LRO and toolkits would be useful.

SR stated that a person with local knowledge needs to be involved in the development of smart indicators and toolkits. MB said information using local intelligence needs to be developed.

JC highlighted the need to store qualitative information. AP answered that links can be built in to the LRO website. Need to talk to partners to work towards making sure data can be shared quickly and efficiently.

Action: *JHa to develop draft LRO Action Plan to outline proposed developments and partner involvement for the next 12 months*

Community Profile Data and Toolkit

The LRO has purchased Mosaic data from consultants Experian for the next three years, offering an opportunity to evaluate its usefulness. The information is available now to all partners through PlanWeb. Mosaic uses over 400 data items to classify every UK postcode into one of 11 distinct groups and 61 types. Mosaic data can help to produce customer profiles as well as identify if all parts of the community are accessing services by comparing your customer data with the Mosaic groups or types for the same area.

Action: Partners to contact JHa for further information or to arrange a demonstration of Mosaic

AP stated that customer profiling using Mosaic data at county and district level is currently being undertaken.

Action: JHa to forward background information on Mosaic to partners

6. Developing the Research Network in Lincolnshire

AP stated that the Research Team is looking for involvement from partners in developing a research network across Lincolnshire.

MB asked how we can explore the way for the network to work. AP stated that there needs to be a link between policy makers. A focus is currently being placed on building capacity. JC stated that timeliness and fitting in with capacity is important.

AP said that there is a need to set a framework for the system to provide the data and information that is needed. Work focused on area profiles will demonstrate how the system can operate.

PK suggested a focus on disadvantaged people by looking at single parents, claimants of incapacity benefit and jobseekers allowance; this information can be compared with investments being made. The effect the investment has had on a ward can then be mapped and an understanding of the effect the investment measures have had on deprived areas can be developed.

AP stated that PlanWeb allows the characteristics of population, deprivation, Mosaic and intervention data to be mapped and compared.

PK stated that JobCentre Plus would be keen to share their data with partners. WB said that Lincolnshire Enterprise would share data on economic development and the private sector with partners.

Action: JHa to incorporate partner suggestions into draft LRO Action Plan

MB suggested that the priority areas should be East Lindsey and Lincoln, with a day planned for developing and prioritising smart indicators.

It was decided that a day should be arranged for partners to give input on the development of smart indicators for the new LRO website. This will enable partners to ensure the new LRO website meets their data needs and the knowledge partners have on specific areas and subjects can be utilised.

Action: Date arranged for Wednesday 17 October, further details to be forwarded to partners

MB suggested that the users of data should be involved in the discussion day for smart indicators. The day should focus on mapping information then prioritising the smart indicators to be developed.

7. Any Other Business

KM mentioned the current review of IMD; partners should have received information seeking comments by 15 August.

Action: Partners to contact KM for further information

8. Date of Next Meeting

A discussion day is to be arranged in October; the focus will be on intervention areas and will look at the prioritisation of smart indicators, themes, profiles and maps for the new LRO website.

It was agreed that LRO Steering Group meetings will take place every quarter; the date for the next meeting is due to take place in October. The final date will be confirmed by JHa.