

Understanding the Implications of the CSR

What is your request of the LSP Board?	<p>The LSP Board is asked to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide recent updates on any emerging implications for their agency / sector arising from the CSR and any subsequent Government announcements 2. Note and comment on the update from the LSP Working Group
What do you want from the Theme Delivery Partnerships?	<p>The Theme Delivery Partnerships are asked:</p> <p>(1) To input into the work of the LSP Working Group on changes arising from the CSR affecting their partnership working.</p>
Background material	

Background:

Previous discussions at the LSP Board on the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) have identified the need for a joined up picture of impacts of the CSR, particularly where there are emerging changes or cuts to service provision and changes in policy and strategic approach. There is also a need to understand the impacts on specific groups of people or places across the public sector partners of the LSP so that the work of any one agency does not adversely impact upon another, and collectively, we do not all impact on the same parts of the community.

Progress to Date:

At the LSP Board meeting on 21st September, discussions took place around the changing policy agenda. Subsequently, an officer level working group was convened, representing agencies across the Council and Partnership in order to identify potential issues and opportunities.

Some issues are beginning to be identified for the working group to take forward where there could be the potential for changes in approach to impact across the Partnership. For example:

- **Carers and an ageing population:** Aging carers caring for an increasingly elderly population therefore meaning increasing support needs.
- **Young men:** This is a potentially vulnerable group, especially where unemployment is an issue, often clustered around particular communities where social housing is more prevalent, whose needs involve the Police, Children & Adult Services.
- **Vulnerable Groups of Housing Association Tenants:** Changes to benefit payments may impact on a number of housing tenants, for example there is the potential for growing incidents of rent arrears, also potentially impacting on the Revenues & Benefits service.
- **Skills to engage with vulnerable groups and communities:** Networks, relationships and trust are particularly important when targeting services to particular communities and when services are changing. The skills in how to engage is often a gap in most public service agencies
- **Increased on-line service provision:** Government are increasing the number of transactions that have to be conducted on-line, such as Revenues & Benefits Services yet there is the potential for the provision of on-line facilities, such as through Libraries to diminish with cuts to Council services. Opportunities exist for agencies to work together to identify the best ways / best places to offer these sorts of on-line services collectively
- **Low income families:** Those who are either already experiencing child poverty or at risk of falling into it could be more at risk from service cuts and changes to benefits – more work is needed on understanding the impacts of changes on this group
- **Impacts of Council cuts in Children's Services** (for example abolition of Healthy Schools Grant) is leading to a review of priorities within Public Health as complimentary programmes cannot continue (such as Healthy Schools Plus)

Next Steps:

- Although it is too early to be specific in terms of impacts, the Working Group will continue to identify risk areas and use a common language to describe this across the Partnership so that we are all clear on what each agency is planning and any potential implications across the LSP.
- Further discussions will take place after the publication of the Government budget in December and a number of key Government White Papers such as on Health and the Localism Bill.
- There will be ongoing discussions through the LSP Executive and on to the LSP Board as necessary through the budget setting processes of each agency how to manage any emerging risks.

Recommendations:

- 1. LSP Board Members are asked to provide recent updates on any emerging implications for their agency / sector arising from the CSR and any subsequent Government announcements.**
- 2. The LSP Board is asked note and comment on the update from the LSP Working Group**