

Chairman’s Introduction

Regional Concordat: The West Midlands Regional Concordat provides a framework for partnership working between regional organisations and for the integration of regional strategies. It is an agreement that reflects partners’ respective roles and shared responsibilities, including the co-ordination and integration of regional strategies.

Introduction and Context for the Strategy

Equality and Diversity issues, including social inclusion and community cohesion related matters, are addressed throughout this Strategy as the way in which we handle health and well-being in relation to everyday life. For example, housing and transport take into account the varying needs of those who may require support accessing services, maybe due to older age or poverty, perhaps having a higher reliance on public transport or less opportunity to purchase the right foods or nutrients through less easy access to shops selling affordable fruit and vegetables. These are very simple examples of how dealing with basic needs can help prevent the development, or increase, of health inequalities across various groups.

In addition, the Government is developing a comprehensive programme of reform that goes beyond tackling individual instances of discrimination, to create a new framework to challenge persistent patterns of discrimination and inequality and promote and protect diversity, good relations (both between and within communities) and human rights through the establishment of a new Commission for Equality and Human Rights. The Commission will be made up of the Commissions for Disability Rights, Equal Opportunities and Racial Equality and will also tackle discrimination in relation to sexual orientation, age and religion or belief. Key groups it will cover include: Gender; Racial Groups; Sexual Orientation; Religion or Belief; Age; Gender Reassignment; Disability.

Through the West Midlands Regional Assembly’s Equality and Diversity Partnership, a “working-group” will be set up to work with the Commission of Equality and Human Rights, including both employers and employees, to identify realistic action which can work towards improving health issues for all sections of the community particularly related to: Mental Health; Social Isolation; Poverty.

Table of Partners: The following table highlights the agencies involved in the development of the Strategy and how various partners feed into them:

Lead Organisation	Contributors to written Strategy	Examples of links to wider partnerships
Regional Assembly Health Partnership	Learning and Skills Council	Education and Skills Partnerships
	Department of Health (West Midlands)	Department of Health and Government Office West Midland Partnerships
	Strategic Health Authority and Primary Care Trusts	NHS Partnerships
	Valuing Age and Experience	Older Peoples Partnerships
	Advantage West Midlands and Business in the Community	Economic and Business Partnerships
	Healthy Living Centre Alliance	Voluntary and Community sector
	Sport England	Physical Activity networks
	West Midland Public Health Observatory	

Lead Organisation	Contributors to written strategy	Examples of links to wider partnerships
Regional Assembly Health Partnership	Regional Action West Midlands	Voluntary and Community sector
	Arts Council	Cultural Networks
	Local Authority representatives	Local Authority Networks
	Regional Assembly members	Assembly Partners and wider Networks
	Care Services Improvement Partnership (CSIP)	CSIP Partnerships

Planning, Transport and Health

Local Development Framework (LDF): “The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Bill” was enacted on 28 September 2004. It introduced a system of LDFs to replace the Unitary Development Plan. An LDF is a folder to local development documents that outlines how planning will be managed in each area. Each Local Authority must produce an LDF which focuses on delivering sustainable development and giving local communities the opportunity to participate from the outset.

Housing and Health

Section 106 Agreements: Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 allows a local planning authority (LPA) to enter into a legally-binding agreement or planning obligation, with a land developer over a related issue. The obligation is sometimes termed as a ‘Section 106 Agreement’.

Such agreements can cover almost any relevant issue and can include sums of money. Possible examples of Section 106 Agreements could be:

- The developer will transfer ownership of an area of woodland to an LPA with a suitable fee to cover its future maintenance
- The Local Authority will restrict the development of an area of land, or permit only specified operations to be carried out on it in the future eg, amenity use
- The developer will plant a specified number of trees and maintain them for a number of years
- The developer will create a nature reserve
- Section 106 Agreements can act as a main instrument for placing restrictions on the developers, often requiring them to minimise the impact on the local community and to carry out tasks, which will provide community benefits. <http://www.idea-knowledge.gov.uk/idk/core/page.do?pageId=71631>

Environment and Health

Ecological Footprint: The Ecological Footprint is used as the best indicator of overall environmental impact. The measure is based on the area of productive land or water needed to supply our resources and absorb our pollution: this land may be located anywhere in the world. If the available productive land area were to be distributed evenly among the global population, the West Midlands is currently overshooting that share by a factor of three. So if everyone lived in the same way as the average person in the West Midlands, we would need three planets to support our lifestyles.

Five Portions of Food: Increasing consumption of fruit and vegetables can significantly reduce the risk of many chronic diseases. It has been estimated that eating at least 5 portions of a variety of fruit and vegetables a day could reduce the risk of deaths from chronic diseases such as heart disease, stroke and cancer by up to 20%. The message at the heart of the Department of Health's 5 A DAY programme - to eat at least 5 portions (400g) of a variety of fruit and vegetables each day - is consistent with dietary recommendations around the world, including those from the World Health Organisation.

Waste Hierarchy: The waste hierarchy is a useful framework that has become a cornerstone of sustainable waste management, setting out the order in which options for waste management should be considered based on environmental impact: Reduction, Re-use, Recycling & Composting, Energy Recovery, Disposal.

(Ref: Defra What Happens to Waste? <http://www.defra.gov.uk/ENVIRONMENT/waste/topics/index.htm>)

Economy and Health

Collaborative Procurement Hub (CPH): The CPHs project is working with Trusts and Confederations in a phased approach to develop CPHs across the NHS that provide a regional procurement focus. CPHs will help optimise all commercial spend through collaborative working across all Trusts in the local health economy and ensure a strong clinical interface to deliver the right product for local health economies. It is also supporting NHS Logistics and the new National Framework Agreements within the NCP project to maximise the purchasing sale provided by the CPH approach.

Medical Technologies Cluster: This is defined as comprising businesses that operate in the market for any instrument, apparatus, material or other article, whether used alone or in combination, including the software necessary for its proper application intended by the manufacturer to be used for human beings for the purpose of:

- Diagnosis, prevention, monitoring, treatment or alleviation of disease, or the promotion of good health
- Diagnosis, monitoring, treatment, alleviation of or compensation for an injury or handicap
- Investigation, replacement or modification of the anatomy or of a physiological process
- Control of conception
- Which does not achieve its principal intended action in or on the human body by pharmacological, immunological or metabolic means, but which may be assisted in its function by such means.

The cluster recognises the importance of the supply chain which underpins the areas identified above and will provide support to this where appropriate. Similarly the cluster appreciates the role played by the NHS. Particularly in respect of its value as a major purchaser of products and services.

<http://www.advantagewm.co.uk/medical-technologies.html>

Science City: Among other outcomes, Birmingham Science City will:

- Draw on the strengths of the Region's world-class research universities to promote Birmingham and the wider West Midlands as the place to live and work in an increasingly knowledge-driven economy
- Source new technology and work closely with businesses and public sector clients to help to improve economic prosperity and quality of life for all
- Raise the profile of our strengths and expertise to enable us to effectively demonstrate the value of locating in the West Midlands to start-ups, growing businesses, inward investors and public sector organisations.

Culture, Physical Activity and Health

NHS Local Improvement Finance Trust (LIFT): This is a vehicle for improving and developing frontline primary and community care facilities. It is allowing Primary Care Trusts to invest in new premises in new locations, not merely reproduce existing types of service. It is providing patients with modern integrated health services in high quality, fit for purpose primary care premises. NHS LIFT is flexible in respect of the type of buildings it provides. The approach does not provide a building into which you put your services. Rather it allows the building design to reflect the needs of the services. To date, LIFT is providing a range of building types including re-provision of GP premises, one stop primary care centres, integrated health and local authority service centres and community hospitals.

Private Finance Initiative (PFI): This provides a way of funding major capital investments, without immediate resource to the public purse. Private consortia, usually large construction firms, are contracted to design, build and in some cases, manage new projects. Contracts typically last for 30 years, during which time the building is leased by a public authority.

Safer Communities and Health

Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs): The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 established CDRPs which are partnerships between the Police, Local Authorities, Probation Service, Health Authorities, the Voluntary and Community Sector, local residents and businesses. They work to reduce crime and disorder in their local area.

Children & Young People

Wraparound Services: Wraparound services in schools enable parents to utilise child focussed provision between around 8am and 6pm. Although schools have long offered activities beyond the traditional school day, these new services differ in three respects:

- They offer continuity of care between these hours
- There may be an increased tendency for children to go to the same club each day
- They are not necessarily linked to an activity or theme (eg football or guides) but provide childcare provision.

Current national targets are for 50% of primary schools and 33% of secondary schools will be providing these services by 2008 with all schools involved by 2010.

Later Life

Expert Patient: Self-management programme giving people the confidence, skills and knowledge to manage their condition/needs better and be more in control of their lives.

Lifetime Homes: are defined by a set of standards covering access (car parking, approach, illumination, lifts), inside the home (width of doors and halls, wheelchair space, layout, toilets and bathrooms, room for a lift and suitability for hoists) and fixtures and fittings (windows, switches, sockets and service controls).

Registered Social Landlords: Not-for-profit housing providers approved and regulated by Government through the Housing Corporation.

Self Directed Support: The Government is driving the shift to a personalised social care system. This moves from a system where people have to take what is on offer to one where people have greater control over identifying the type of support or help they want and more choice about and influence over the services on offer.

Abbreviations

AWM: Advantage West Midlands

CSIP: Care Services Improvement Partnership

DH: Department of Health

GOWM: Government Office West Midlands

HPA: Health Protection Agency

WMLGA: West Midlands Local Government Association

WMRA: West Midlands Regional Assembly