

Public Service Reform Board

Date	30 th September 2021
Report title	PSR Annual Performance and Forward Planning
Portfolio Lead	Councillor Rajbir Singh, Portfolio Holder for Public Service Reform & Social Economy
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Report has been considered by	

Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

Public Service Reform Board is recommended to:

- (1) Note the progress against the 2021/22 High Level Deliverables to date.
- (2) Note the progress on 2020/21 High Level Deliverables.
- (3) Identify any areas which the Board wishes to receive a more detailed report on progress or activity.

1. Purpose

- 1.1 This paper reports against progress to date against the 2021/22 deliverables and confirms the end of year position for the deliverables for 2020/21.

2. High Level Deliverables for 2021/22

PSR01

Aim:

Facilitation of the Homelessness Taskforce to develop, co-ordinate and embed a regional approach to designing out homelessness

Progress:

- Homelessness Taskforce steering group, Children, Families and Young People Task Group, Rough Sleeper Task Group, Members Advisory Group progress key objectives as planned.
- Commitment to Collaborate Toolkit launched on 28th July, now available for partners.
- Ongoing support and promotion of Change into Action in Birmingham, Coventry, Sandwell, Solihull and Walsall; Change into Action launched in Dudley on 8th September 2021.
- Exploration of use of Social Impact Bond for a recovery tenancy pilot continues.
- Work with DWP and Local authority partners to develop a solution to funding the recovery tenancy pilot.

PSR02

Aim:

Commission and provide oversight for grant-funded homelessness programmes

Progress:

- First phase of Housing First completed with 487 (current and former) clients accommodated across 7 Local Authorities – joint op-ed with GMCA and LCR published on 13/09/21 as part of wider lobbying effort to extend programme.
- Successful bids to Rough Sleeper Accommodation Programme 2021/22.
- 19 properties acquired under Next Steps Accommodation Programme 2020/21 – 15 occupied by HF clients.
- WMCA Rough Seeping Initiative 2021/22 projects commenced and delivering - 779 individuals supported as at end of August, work to develop Street Support website for region underway.
- Faith & Designing out Homelessness booklet launched and event with faith and community groups to promote held.
- 30 veterans supported via Royal British Legion spot purchase fund.

PSR03

Aim:

Community Recovery programme: coordinate delivery of community recovery priorities and cross cutting themes

Progress:



- Application for Local Data Accelerator fund unsuccessful, constructive feedback received.
- Recovery Coordination Group met 13th September and agreed a new approach to governance and oversight of agenda.
- All collaborative areas progressing including work on understanding people at risk of rising rent arrears and homelessness, and a draft options paper for 'Living Safely With Coronavirus' theme being considered.
- Community Recovery Innovation Challenge winners and runner ups being supported to develop their ideas, prizes awarded in some areas and outstanding for some.
- 'Covid keeps' publication currently with design team.

PSR04

Aim:

Criminal Justice and Fire Collaboration

Progress:

- Progress made on the Police and Crime Plan which will include a section on joint work with the WMCA, detailing a range of joint areas of focus and commitments which are progressing.
- Fire collaboration continues to progress well around trauma informed approaches, early intervention and prevention and rough sleepers.
- Application for 'WM safe centre' a new secure facility in the West Midlands in partnership with the regions Directors of Children's Services, the PCC and two charities submitted at the request of the DfE.
- VRU sports partnership board, trauma informed task and finish group and trauma informed design sprint, VRU executive board, Violence against women and girls, Domestic abuse, reducing reoffending boards all supported or led by the WMCA

PSR05

Aim:

Early Intervention and prevention programme

Progress:

- Key areas of work programme include; Data and intelligence; system leadership (including an option to undertake a review of Early Help governance); and school readiness.
- Progress impacted by failure to recruit to key role – key pieces of work will now be externally commissioned pending recruitment.
- Trauma informed design sprint concluded and recommendations in place to establish a trauma informed coalition, a training framework and commissioning guidelines.

PSR06

Aim:

JOINT WITH STRATEGY & CULTURE

Systems leadership: develop a regional programme of learning and development in systems leadership

Progress:



- CIVIC pilot development in second half of 6 month development phase with a multi agency stakeholder group combining both employment and leadership tracks - expect full programme to be launched in late 2021.
- Issues identified with the diversity of the co creation group and activity in place to address this.
- Contributions from a range of agencies. Opportunity to shape the programme from agencies not already engaged remains open.

PSR07

Aim:

JOINT WITH CULTURE & DIGITAL

Improve digital inclusion in the region through partnerships with Local Authorities and Civil society organisations

Progress:

- Coalition for Digital Inclusion meetings continue.
- WM digital inclusion charter developed and building agreement from local partners.
- Established data poverty and devises working group with clear actions and recommendations.
- Peer research on digital exclusion commissioned and will include a focus on families in Temporary accommodation.
- pilot data sharing in community hubs being developed.
- Proposals for £8m Great Digital Catch-up prepared and shared with government and private sector partners

IG01

Aim:

Embedding inclusive growth within the WMCA and its partners

Progress:

- Inclusive Growth Business Partners Network consultation in progress to develop next phase.
- Housing and regeneration Inclusive Growth Business Partners led a session on the inclusive growth levers associated with funding streams and Single Commissioning frameworks.
- No business cases available for SAF testing in their period.
- Summary report of JRF funding outputs shared with JRF, with session on lessons to follow.
- Created proposal / briefing for inseting fund and shared with IGN coordinator.

IG02

Aim:

Inclusive growth impact, monitoring and accountability

Progress:

- Plans created for 'Inclusive Growth Summit' event to enable regional peer and shared learning.
- Progress made on finalising the Inclusive Growth Framework refresh, which should be ready this Autumn.

- Data story Miro Board created to give IGBPs and others a broader sense of how we approach inclusive growth

IG03

Aim:

Support at least three local authorities and their partners with 'Inclusive-Growth-In-Action' initiatives

Progress:

- East Birmingham Board: Workshop to develop East Birmingham RPU delayed until September. Supported CCIN workshop to contribute to Ward End project. Successful in Nuffield + British Academy application to access workshops to access funding for East Birmingham, taking place in September.
- Kingshurst: Reviewed the Kingshurst Community Engagement Strategy and Toolkit for SMBC and SCH
- Attended DoFest Dudley to ensure synergy in supporting social economy growth in Dudley.

IG04

Aim:

Publish, unlock investment for and co-ordinate delivery of the Social Economy Business Plan

Progress:

- First draft of document received, comments from the consortium sought and fed back to design team.
- Arrangement with Midlands Engine and Black Country Consortium reached to do M&E.
- Midstage review on Community Pubs funding.
- Commissioned and completed framework and business cases from iSE-led consortium – see 'Growing the social economy' paper.
- Establishing monitoring and evaluation systems in partnership with Black Country Consortium.

IG05

Aim:

Develop and support Inclusive Growth Corridors Board

Progress:

- Not progressed due to capacity issues in the team

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 The WMCA budget agreed in February has been built around these High Level Deliverables. There are no other direct spend or budgetary implications as a result of the recommendations within this report. There is underspend in the budget due to being unable to fill vacancies.

5. Legal Implications

5.1 It is a statutory requirement that the Combined Authority has an assurance framework in place. The assurance framework approved by the WMCA Board on 24 July 2020 stipulates the requirement of the Public Service Reform Board to approve and monitor the deliverables of the portfolio.

6. Equalities Implications to update

6.1 The composition of the Thematic Boards and other governance structures of the WMCA normally reflect the composition of the political leadership in constituent local authorities. To this extent, at the current time, they do not reflect the full diversity of the West Midlands region and decision-making might be skewed by unconscious bias. Where there is scope for local authorities to consider diversifying who might represent them on such Boards this could be considered and where there is scope for the Thematic Board to consider co-opting non-voting members on the grounds of their gender or protected characteristics then this too could be considered.

7. Inclusive Growth Implications

7.1 This paper sets out plans to lead the WMCA's approach to Inclusive Growth in 2021/22 and the good progress that has been made in the previous financial year.

8. Geographical Area of Report's Implications

8.1 The work of the Public Service Reform Board applies to relevant activity across both Constituent and Non-constituent areas.

9. Other Implications

9.1 None.

10. Schedule of Background Papers

10.1 None.

11. Appendices