

Report to the Warwickshire Public Service Board

22nd September 2008

Area Based Grant Joint Scrutiny Panel

Report of the Chair of the Area Based Grant Joint Scrutiny Panel

Recommendation

The Public Service Board is recommended to endorse the recommendations of the Area Based Grant Joint Scrutiny Panel outlined on page 6 of this report.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 As part of the Council resolution agreeing the allocation of Area Based Grant (ABG) for 2008/09, the County Council requested that a joint scrutiny exercise be undertaken to review the 2008/09 allocations prior to the County Council beginning its budget deliberations for 2009/10.
- 1.2 The joint scrutiny exercise was carried out in July 2008. The membership of the Area Based Grant Joint Scrutiny Panel:

Cllr Chris Davis, Warwickshire County Council (Chair)
Cllr Sid Tooth, Warwickshire County Council
Cllr Bob Crowther, Warwick District Council
Ian Francis, Warwickshire Police Authority
Cllr Vaughan Owen, Warwickshire Association of Local Councils
Gillian Entwistle, Warwickshire Primary Care Trust

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 Whilst the Panel does not question the value of the work being undertaken or the commitment of officers to achieve and make improvements in services, the Panel is of the view that a number of changes could be made to the ABG allocation process in order to further support the work and commitment shown. In considering the evidence, the Panel identified three key issues that should be taken into consideration in future allocations of the ABG. These are the structure of allocations, the level of funding and the demonstrable impact of the allocations. The section below outlines each of these in turn.

Structure of Allocations

- 2.2 Whilst it was agreed that 2008/09 would be a transitional year, with funding allocated in line with historically ring-fenced grants, the Panel is of the view that this is not the most efficient or effective way of allocating the funding. In the discussions with Heads of Service it became apparent to the Panel that the previous structure of ring-fenced grants has created fragmentation and stifled innovation, as services have inevitably sought to spend grants in line with strictly defined grant regulations. Despite increased flexibility, there is still a strong adherence, both in practice and culture, to the former nature of the funding allocations. This needs to be addressed.
- 2.3 The Panel recognises that whilst ABG is not ring-fenced, Government departments are still to some extent attempting to direct how ABG is allocated and spent. This particularly appears to be the case with the Department for Children, Schools and Families, where targets have been set in relation to former funding streams and Services will continue to be measured against these targets. Therefore, the message that funding is no longer ring-fenced needs to be reinforced and Services encouraged to think innovatively about how they spend funding allocated to them. Inevitably, increased flexibility in allocating ABG, does not negate the statutory requirement to deliver services and to meet associated service standards. However, the Panel is of the view that statutory requirements could still be achieved through a less structured and more streamlined approach. The Panel recommends that the future allocations of ABG should be structured in larger themed pots, thereby enabling Services to have greater flexibility in determining how funds should be spent. For example, there are currently numerous streams of grant funding allocated to the Education Partnerships and School Development Division, within the Children, Young People and Families Directorate, which relate to school improvement. The Panel is of the view that a single themed pot for School Improvement would be more beneficial and allow the Division to use funding more holistically and flexibly. This approach was welcomed by several Heads of Service.
- 2.4 By developing larger thematic pots, a greater link will be possible between the LAA and the allocation of ABG. This will not be achievable if funding remains linked to historic allocations. Moreover, this approach will allow overarching issues to be more effectively targeted. For example, in considering the evidence submitted in the individual submission forms for each grant and in discussions with Heads of Service, it became apparent to the Panel that alcohol misuse has a significant impact upon a number of services and priority outcomes, including educational attainment, mental health and road accidents. However, under historic allocations alcohol misuse has not been given sufficient priority or sufficient resource to address the increasing problem effectively. In line with the recommendations made by Warwickshire County Council's Children, Young People and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the Panel recommends that alcohol misuse should be given the same priority by Warwickshire County Council and Partners as drug misuse. Greater flexibility in the structure of allocations would enable easier prioritisation of overarching issues such as alcohol misuse, whereas under historic funding allocations this would not be the case.

2.5 The Panel suggests that the following themes could be considered for the allocation of ABG in 2009/10.

Theme	
School Improvement and Support	Children, Young People and Families
Empowering Children, Young People and Families by tackling disadvantage and providing focussed support	Children, Young People and Families
Supporting Independent Living	Adults, Health and Community Services
Social and Community Care	Adult, Health and Community Services
Safe and Sustainable Travel	Environment and Economy
Narrowing the Gap	Local Strategic Partnerships

2.6 In addition to funding becoming more thematic based, the Panel is of the view that in future allocations of ABG, a clear distinction will need to be made between elements of funding that should support countywide services and those elements that should target specific communities in order to narrow the gaps. The Panel recognises that this change will require a cultural change among all partners. To start this cultural change process, the Panel recommends that in 2009/10 services should be required to link more closely with Local Strategic Partnerships (LSP's), demonstrating more local consultation and a greater focus on local issues in order to receive ABG.

Level of funding

2.7 Whilst the Panel recognises the need for levels of funding made through ABG to be reviewed, the Panel does not feel in a position to make any direct recommendations regarding the appropriateness of current levels of funding or possible levels of future funding. The reasons for this are outlined below:

- It was difficult for the Panel to identify which services are statutory requirements and at what level such services should be provided. An example of this is the School Improvement Partners (SIPs), where the statutory requirement to provide SIPs is clear, but the provision of five days per year for every school appears to be guidance rather than a requirement.
- It was difficult to make any assessment of the appropriateness of current funding levels without ascertaining what proportion of total funding being directed at a particular outcome, ABG represents. Whilst information regarding additional funding through Warwickshire County Council's base budget was made available to the Panel, it was difficult for the Panel to identify the level of funding partners were spending in relation to each LAA block.
- Inevitably, all Heads of Service maintained that they were currently operating at the absolute minimum level of resources and the Panel is

of the view that Officers are best placed to assess the resources necessary to achieve targets.

2.8 Despite being unable to make direct recommendations regarding future levels of funding, the Panel is strongly of the view that decisions regarding future funding levels need to take the following issues into consideration:

- Future allocations should reflect where services currently in receipt of ABG are expected to become self-sustaining, for example the Extended Schools Programme, and should decrease in amount over time.
- Funding for some grant streams is expected to reduce in future years, for example the Road Safety Grant, and plans should already be in place to address this, for example through increasing efficiency.
- Funding for some grant streams is expected to increase in future years, for example the Mental Health Capacity Act funding is expected to increase by 27% in 2009/10.
- There are existing requirements upon all services to make efficiency savings on an annual basis.
- There are a number of grant streams that are currently funding lengthy contracts with external service providers, for example Connexions and the Rural Bus Subsidy. The level of funding for such contracts will need to be closely reviewed when contracts are due for expiry. In the example of the Rural Bus Subsidy, contracts with bus operators are due to expire at different points in time, therefore the level of funding will need to be reviewed on a rolling programme.
- Levels of funding should be linked to demonstrable impact on LAA targets and Narrowing the Gaps.
- The impact changing demographics will have upon services will need to be taken into consideration. For example, the ageing population will inevitably place pressure upon services relating to dementia and support for carers.

2.9 Additionally, the Panel recognises the need to address the sustainability of the “top-up” funding which has been allocated to the Local Strategic Partnerships (£800,000) for 2008/09 in support of the Narrowing the Gap agenda. The Panel is of the view that the sustainability of this funding could be achieved by top slicing all grant money by 5% in order to redirect this resource to the Local Strategic Partnerships in order to further progress the Narrowing the Gap agenda. The Panel acknowledges the dangers of top slicing and it was agreed that this could only be done with an evaluation of the levels of alternative funding in order to ensure that there are no situations resulting in current gaps widening or new gaps being created. The Panel recommends that the Public Service Board require Directorates to demonstrate the impact of a potential top slicing of 5% on the themed pots for the 2010/11 allocation. This would reinforce the move away from historic allocations and would inevitably require Services to prioritise and think more holistically and laterally about funding. This exercise should be carried out as part of the 2009/10 allocation process. The Panel recommends that LPSA2 Reward Grant could

be used to facilitate the transition over the next year to this new way of funding for 2010/11.

- 2.10 Redirecting funding towards the LSP's could also be achieved by requiring greater contributions from partners, identifying efficiency savings by working more closely with partners and identifying other efficiency savings in how services are delivered.

Demonstrable Impact

- 2.11 As the ABG for 2008/09 continues to be allocated in line with historically ring-fenced activities, it is currently difficult to directly link ABG with the priorities in the LAA. Therefore, in considering the impact of the 2008/09 ABG on LAA targets and other priorities, the Panel found it difficult to isolate the exact contribution made by ABG funding. This is attributable to two factors. Firstly, many of the grant streams appeared to have an accumulative effect, where numerous activities were contributing to the achievement of LAA targets or other priorities. For example, the majority of grant streams held within the Children, Young People and Families Directorate indirectly impact upon targets such as raising educational attainment but it is difficult to identify the impact which individual activities and services have on such targets. Secondly, in many cases ABG funding is not the only funding supporting an activity or service, making it difficult to identify the proportionate contribution made by the allocation of ABG. The Panel is of the view that future ABG allocations should be more closely linked to the achievement of LAA targets or other priorities. Whilst this can partly be achieved by allocations being structured into larger themed pots as outlined above, there is also a need to ensure more effective performance management relating to the allocation of ABG. The Panel recommends that future allocations of ABG should be linked to clearer measures of impact and outcomes, with services being required to develop actions plans specifically outlining how ABG will be spent, the associated outcomes and direct contributions to LAA targets and other performance indicators. Clearer measures of impact will be able to guide future decisions regarding allocations.

Future Scrutiny of the LAA

- 2.12 The Panel agreed that the scrutiny review of ABG had been a useful exercise and an excellent example of partnership working. In considering possible future scrutiny of the LAA the Panel thought that the following points should be taken into consideration:
- The need to shift the focus to addressing specific targets rather than taking a holistic view of the entire LAA.
 - Quarterly performance reports of the LAA should be used to identify potential issues for in-depth partnership scrutiny on specific targets
 - The need to engage Block Leaders of the LAA in the process of scrutiny, in order to get a clear picture across all partners.
 - It is preferable that a standing body, with pre-determined membership and meeting dates, be established in order to avoid difficulties

experienced in setting up a joint panel at short notice and to enable a body of expertise to be developed.

Recommendations

- A** In order to move away from historic funding patterns, future allocations of ABG should be structured in larger themed pots. The Panel suggests that this structure could include the following themed pots: School Improvement and Support, Empowering Children, Young People and Families by tackling disadvantage and providing focussed support, Supporting Independent Living, Social and Community Care, Safe and Sustainable Travel and Narrowing the Gap.
- B** The message that funding is no longer ring-fenced should be reinforced and services encouraged to think innovatively in how they spend their funding allocations.
- C** Future allocations of ABG need to include a clear distinction between funding that should support countywide services and funding that should target specific communities in order to narrow the gaps. To encourage a cultural change in order to achieve this balance, in 2009/10 Services should be required to link more closely with Local Strategic Partnerships (LSP's), demonstrating more local consultation and a greater focus on local issues in order to receive ABG.
- D** Decisions regarding future levels of funding need to take the following into account:
- The need for services to move towards self-sustaining funding
 - The expected decrease in some grant streams
 - The expected increase in some grant streams
 - Existing requirements upon all services to make efficiency savings on an annual basis
 - Contractual arrangements with external service providers
 - Demonstrable impact on LAA targets and Narrowing the Gaps
 - The impact changing demographics will have upon services
- E** As part of the 2009/10 allocation process the Public Service Board require Directorates to demonstrate the impact of a potential top slicing of 5% on the themed pots for the 2010/11 allocation
- F** A general exception should be made for 2009/10, to allow LPSA2 reward grant to be used to manage the transition towards the new way of funding proposed by the Panel's recommendations for 2010/11
- G** To ensure effective performance management, there should be clearer measures of impact and outcomes around the use of ABG. Included in this should be a requirement on Services to develop action plans specifically outlining how ABG will be spent and the associated

outcomes and demonstrable impact upon LAA targets or other priorities.

H The Panel identified alcohol misuse as a cross-cutting issue and agreed that alcohol misuse needed to be given the same priority as drugs

I Any future scrutiny of the LAA should be undertaken by a standing body and with pre-determined membership and meeting date, and should focus on specific priorities.

3. Background

3.1 From April 2008, the majority of local authority grant funding from central government will now be allocated on a three-year basis to allow for stability in planning and delivering of local services.

3.2 The Local Government White Paper outlined the new approach to local authority funding as being underpinned by three strands:

1. A non-ring-fenced General Grant for the provision of core services, calculated by a formula and distributed to local authorities according to need.
2. A non-ring-fenced Area Based Grant, allocated according to specific policy criteria, as opposed to a formulae.
3. Ring-fenced Specific Grant funding for exceptional cases where there is a recognised need to direct resources in a specific way.

3.3 Prior to the introduction of Area Based Grant, local authority grants were ring-fenced for specific purposes. However, local authorities are now free to allocate Area Based Grant as they see fit in order to support the delivery of local, regional and national priorities, including, although not exclusively, the achievement of LAA targets. In Warwickshire, the Area Based Grant includes the sum of those grants already pooled as part of the Warwickshire LAA Pooled Grant, other existing grants received by Directorates for specific purposes and a number of new grants to enable the County Council to meet new statutory requirements. The allocation of Area Based Grant to Warwickshire County Council for 2008/09 amounted to £22.151 million (including a late allocation of £88k).

Allocations of the ABG for 2008/09

3.4 In discussing the allocation of ABG, Cabinet agreed at its meeting on 21st February 2008, that 2008/09 should be viewed as a transitional year, with ongoing commitments in terms of staffing and contracts being met and these allocations only being confirmed for one year.

3.5 In March 2008 Warwickshire County Council approved the allocation of the Area Based Grant for 2008/09. This allocation was based on the principles discussed by the Public Service Board (PSB) at its meeting in November 2007. Essentially, these principles were to ensure that ongoing staffing and

contract commitments for partners were met and that any remaining ABG be allocated in line with historic spending, subject to demonstrating to the PSB that the spending will be contributing to the narrowing the gap agenda. Full allocations of ABG for 2008/09 are outlined below. The purpose for each grant is outlined in Appendix C.

- 3.6 It was agreed that £7.306m be allocated to Adult, Health and Community Services Directorate to meet the existing commitments outlined below:

Table 1.1

Grant	Allocation £000
Carers	1,674
Adult Social Care Workforce	1,078
Mental Capacity Act and Independent Mental Capacity Advocate Service	141
Mental Health	1,145
Preserved Rights	2,572
Supporting People Administration	323
Learning and Disability Fund	373
Total	7,306

- 3.7 It was agreed that £2.900m be allocated to Children, Young People and Families Directorate to meet the existing commitments outlined below:

Table 1.2

Grant	Allocation £000
Choice Advisors	25
Schools Improvement Partners (SIP)	252
Education Health Partnership	81
Extended School Start-Up Costs	446
Sustainable Travel General Duty	42
Schools Development Grant	748
Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)	606
Children's Fund	125
14-19 Flexible Funding Pot	130
Teenage Pregnancy (Respect Yourself)	159
Children's Social Care workforce	119
Extended Rights to Free Transport	167
Total	2,900

- 3.8 It was agreed that £2.847 be allocated to the Environment and Economy Directorate to meet the existing commitments outlined below:

Table 1.3

Grant	Allocation £000
Detrunking	389
Road Safety Grant	1,415
Rural Bus Subsidy	1,043

Total	2,847
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3.9 It was agreed £5.686m be allocated to the PSB to deliver priorities of the new LAA, subject to the existing commitments of £5.260m being met, as outlined below:

Table 1.4

Grant	Committed £000	Uncommitted £000	Total £000
Connexions	4,220	-	4,220
Positive Activities for Young People	159	-	159
Primary National Strategy Central Coordination	268	5	273
Secondary National Strategy Central Coordination	253	-	253
Secondary National Strategy Behaviour and Attendance	125	1	126
Safer and Stronger Communities Fund	164	420	584
School Travel Advisors	71	-	71
Total	5,260	426	5,686

3.10 It was agreed that £0.493m be allocated to Directorates to meet the new mandatory requirements outlined below:

Table 1.5

Statutory Requirement	Allocation £000	Relevant Directorate
Local Involvement Networks	212	Performance and Development
Child Death Review Process	47	Children, Young People and Families
Care Matters White Paper	234	Children, Young People and Families
Total	493	

3.11 It was agreed that £0.945m be allocated to the services below, in addition to the funding allocated for existing commitments outlined in Table 1.2 and Table 1.3. This was in line with a previous decision made by Cabinet on 13th March 2008.

Table 1.6

Title	Allocation £000
Extended Schools	590
Road Safety Grant	355
Total	945

3.12 It was agreed that £1.886m be allocated as outlined below, subject to services demonstrating to the PSB how the spending contributes to Narrowing the Gap. This funding was also subject to the production of a satisfactory exit strategy.

Table 1.7

Title	Allocation £000	Relevant Directorate
Carers	294	Adult, Health and Community Services
Adults Social Care Workforce	144	Adult, Health and Community Services
Mental Capacity Act and Independent Mental Capacity Advocate Scheme	76	Adult, Health and Community Services
Mental Health	44	Adult, Health and Community Services
Choice Advisors	10	Children, Young People and Families
Education Health Partnership	24	Children, Young People and Families
Schools Intervention Grant	163	Children, Young People and Families
Schools Development Grant	265	Children, Young People and Families
Children's Fund	815	Children, Young People and Families
14-19 Flexible Funding Pot	23	Children, Young People and Families
Teenage Pregnancy (Respect Yourself)	28	Children, Young People and Families
Total	1,886	

3.13 It was agreed that an additional £1 million be allocated from the “virtual bank” in anticipation of the reward grant being received in relation to LPSA2 targets. These allocations are dependent upon a satisfactory exit strategy being produced prior to any funding being released.

- £400,000 was allocated to Nuneaton and Bedworth LSP in respect of their Narrowing the Gap bid
- £100,000 was allocated to each of North Warwickshire, Rugby, Warwick, and Stratford LSP's, subject to the resources being used to support the Narrowing the Gap agenda in their communities. This funding is dependent upon the PSB approving an action plan.
- £200,000 was allocated to the LAA Safer Communities Themed Block.

3.14 In addition to this, in June 2008 Warwickshire County Council's Cabinet considered a report that explained how the Council had received an additional amount of funding as a result of part of the former Young Persons Substance

Misuse Partnership Grant now being incorporated into the Area Based Grant. The Cabinet resolved that the £88,851 late allocation of Area Based Grant for Young Persons Substance Misuse be allocated to the Children, Young People and Families Directorate for 2008/09 only.

- 3.15 All the 2008/09 allocations of ABG and top-up funding, along with purposes of the allocated funding, is attached in Appendix C.
- 3.16 The County Council has received indicative allocations of the ABG for 2009/10 and 2010/11. Currently, it is estimated that £33,228,809 will be allocated for 2009/10 and £32,606,919 will be allocated for 2010/11. The major change from 2009/10 will be the inclusion of the Supporting People Grant, which will approximately £10m. A detailed breakdown of these indicative allocations is attached as Appendix B.

4. Objectives and Scope of the Review

- 4.1 The objectives of the Area Based Grant Scrutiny Review were to:
1. Give those in receipt of ABG in 2008/09 the opportunity to:
 - a. Make clear the purposes of the former funding stream.
 - b. Describe the citizen outcomes achieved through the current use of resources.
 - c. Describe the contribution of the work funded by the ABG to the new Local Area Agreement and other local priorities including Narrowing the Gap.
 - d. Outline the consequences for the LAA and other priorities of partial or complete disinvestment from the services currently funded.
 2. To consider the availability of resources other than the ABG to support / enhance the work (including resources from partners outside of the County Council).
 3. To consider identifying those elements of the ABG which on the one hand related to LAA outcomes / partnership activity and on the other hand those which related to core functions of the County Council which are single agency and bear no relationship to partnership / LAA activity.
 4. Establish a basis for future joint scrutiny of the LAA.
- 4.2 The scrutiny exercise focussed upon the £22,151m ABG allocated by Warwickshire County Council and the additional £1m funding allocated from the “virtual bank”. Therefore, elements of the ABG which were not allocated by the County Council were not included in the exercise, for example, specific ABG funding allocated to Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council in relation to community cohesion.

- 4.3 To narrow the scope to the review, the Panel agreed to exclude 5 funding streams from the scrutiny exercise. Those elements excluded and the rationale for exclusions are outlined below.
- 4.4 Supporting People Administration (£322,635)**
The Supporting People Administration allocation contributes towards the cost of administering the Supporting People Programme. For 2008/09, whilst the administration grant is part of ABG, the funding for the Supporting People Programme itself is not. With a programme of over £10 million, funding the cost of administering the programme is required and could not run without it. The administration grant has therefore been excluded from the scrutiny exercise, and it is proposed that the PSB and County Council consider this funding alongside the funding for the Supporting People Programme itself, which becomes part of ABG in 2009/10.
- 4.5 Preserved Rights (£2,572,323)**
The allocation for preserved rights provides financial assistance in discharging the County Council's responsibilities for meeting the costs of residential care for people with preserved rights from before 2002/03. This allocation is used to fund the care of named people who were in residential care homes before April 2002. The grant is decreasing by approximately 4.5% per annum in line with the decline in the numbers of people with preserved rights. This is a mandatory liability that will remain with the County Council, albeit decreasing on an annual basis and has therefore been excluded from the scrutiny exercise.
- 4.6 Local Involvement Networks (£212,137)**
This ABG funding enables the County Council to deliver its mandatory responsibility to commission a public involvement in health scrutiny service. A three-year contract has been let to provide this service, in line with the funding included in the ABG. As this service must be delivered on an externally commissioned basis, the cost cannot be avoided and has therefore been excluded from the scrutiny exercise.
- 4.7 Detrunking (£389,105)**
This allocation is to provide support in recognition of the Authority's responsibilities for the routine maintenance of roads that were previously the responsibility of the Highways Agency. The roads for which this funding is provided are the A45 (£101,842) and the A423 (£287,263). This allocation has been excluded from the scrutiny exercise as it is a single agency allocation that has no link to the priorities of the LAA.
- 4.8 Child Death Review Processes (£47,010)**
From April 2008 all Local Children Safeguarding Boards are required to put in place mechanisms to review child deaths. This allocation provides the necessary funding. The County Council is joining a West Midlands authority consortium to provide this statutory review service. As with the Local Involvement Networks, this is a statutory externally commissioned service, the

costs of which cannot be avoided and has therefore been excluded from the scrutiny exercise.

4.9 Overall, the above exclusions amount to £3.543 million, leaving £19.659 million of allocations to be scrutinised. The full scope of the review is attached as Appendix A.

5. Method

5.1 The Panel undertook the review by holding three sessions of evidence gathering, where Heads of Service responsible for services in receipt of ABG in 2008/09 were required to attend to outline the funding received and answer the Panel's questions.

5.2 Prior to the meetings the Panel requested all relevant Heads of Service to complete a submission form for each grant, outlining the following information:

- Description and purpose of the funding stream (as per Government grant announcements)
- What the allocation is currently used for
- Whether the current use of resources reflects partnership activity or single agency activity
- Partner organisations directly involved in the delivery of the service
- Citizen outcomes achieved through the current use of the resources
- How the current use of resources is contributing to the LAA or other local priority
- How the current use of resources is contributing to Narrowing the Gap
- Resources other than ABG that are currently being used to support / enhance the work
- Other resources that could be used to support the work
- Suggested other ways of providing the service
- The minimum level of resource required to support the work to meet the LAA and other priorities
- Consequences of partial / complete disinvestment in the work currently funded (including any consequences for the LAA or other priority)

5.3 The completed submissions for each grant are available upon request.

Appendix A

Scope of the Area Based Grant Scrutiny Review

Review Topic	Joint Area Based Grant Scrutiny Review		
Panel Members	Cllr Tooth (WCC), Cllr Davis (WCC), Cllr Smith (NWBC), Cllr Crowther (WDC), Ian Francis (Police Authority) Vaughan Owen (WALC), Gillian Entwistle (PCT).		
Key Officer Contact	Virginia Rennie (WCC), Ian Davis (RBC), Richard Warne (NBBC), Simon Donaghy (NBBC), John Dubber (WDC), Ann Garner (PCT), Nick Gower-Johnson (WCC) and Bill Basra (WCC).		
Scrutiny Officer Support	Jane Pollard, Overview and Scrutiny Manager (WCC) and Michelle McHugh, Overview and Scrutiny Officer (WCC)		
Rationale	To clearly identify the outcomes achieved through the deployment of the Area Based Grant 2008/09, in order to feed into the budget setting round for 2009/10.		
Objectives of Review	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To give those in receipt of ABG (by LAA Theme Group) in 2008/09 the opportunity to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Make clear the purposes of the former funding stream ▪ Describe the citizen outcomes achieved through the current use of resources ▪ Describe the contribution of the work funded by the ABG to the new LAA and other local priorities including Narrowing the Gap ▪ Outline the consequences of the LAA and other priorities of partial or complete disinvestment from the services currently funded. 2. To consider the availability of resources other than ABG to support / enhance the work (including resources from partners outside the County Council) 3. To consider identifying those elements of the ABG which on the one hand relate to LAA outcomes /partnership activity and on the other hand those which relate to core functions of the County Council which are single agency and bear no relationship to partnership / LAA activity. 4. Establish a basis for future joint scrutiny of the LAA 		
Scope of the Topic	<p>Excluded – Elements of ABG outside of CC – for example Nuneaton and Bedworth Community Cohesion funding.</p> <p>Supporting People Administration, Preserved Rights, Local Involvement Networks, Detrunking and Child Death Review Processes.</p>		
Method	Three ½ day sessions – 2 blocks presenting at each session		
Specify Evidence Sources	Information about Area Based Grant Summary of LAA Blocks current funding Reports / Presentations from LAA Theme Groups		
Specify Witnesses	Strategic Directors and Heads of Service as appropriate		
Barriers/dangers/risks	Being unable to identify meeting dates during this period		
Start Date	July 2008	Projected Completion Date	September 2008

Appendix B
Indicative Area Based Grant Allocations 2008/09 to 2010/11 - as per
Government website

Government Department	Grant	2008-09 £	Variation %	2009-10 £	Variation %	2010-11 £
Communities and Local Government	Supporting People Administration	322,635	-7.9%	297,164	14.3%	254,712
	Supporting People	0		10,146,789	0.0%	10,146,789
	Sub-total	322,635		10,443,953		10,401,501
Department of Health	Adult Social Care Workforce	1,222,237	3.8%	1,269,254	3.7%	1,316,224
	Carers	1,967,697	8.0%	2,124,816	7.5%	2,283,250
	Child & Adolescent Mental Health	605,914	5.4%	638,914	5.2%	672,221
	Learning & Disability Development Fund	372,658	-0.1%	372,177	-0.2%	371,606
	Local Involvement Networks	212,137	0.5%	213,174	0.5%	214,184
	Mental Capacity Act & Independent Mental Capacity	217,020	27.1%	275,812	-3.3%	266,662
	Mental Health	1,188,574	5.1%	1,249,216	4.8%	1,309,524
	Preserved Rights	2,572,323	-4.6%	2,454,108	-4.4%	2,346,655
	Sub-total	8,358,560		8,597,471		8,780,326
Department of Transport	Detrunking	389,105	2.5%	398,832	2.5%	408,803
	Road Safety Grant	1,770,102	-7.8%	1,632,506	-3.7%	1,572,201
	Rural Bus Subsidy	1,043,192	2.6%	1,070,645	2.6%	1,098,097
	Sub-total	3,202,399		3,101,983		3,079,101
DCSF	School Development Grant	1,012,960	0.0%	1,012,960	0.0%	1,012,960
	Extended Schools Start-Up Grants				-	
	Primary National Strategy - Central Co-ordination	1,035,983	59.9%	1,656,143	58.9%	681,076
	Secondary National Strategy - Central Co-ordination	273,285	0.2%	273,733	0.0%	273,768
	Secondary National Strategy - Behaviour and Attendance	253,241	0.3%	253,992	0.1%	254,327
	School Improvement Partners	125,800	0.0%	125,800	0.0%	125,800
	School Improvement Partners	251,740	0.0%	251,740	0.0%	251,740
	Education Health Partnerships	104,859	0.0%	104,859	0.0%	104,859
	School Travel Advisers	71,000	0.0%	71,000	0.0%	71,000
	Choice Advisers	34,636	0.0%	34,636	0.0%	34,636
	School Intervention Grant	163,200	0.0%	163,200	0.0%	163,200
	14 - 19 Flexible Funding Pot	153,006	0.8%	154,207	0.7%	155,215
	Sustainable Travel - General Duty	41,924	0.0%	41,924	0.0%	41,924
	Extended Rights to Free Transport	167,122	64.7%	275,219	39.3%	383,316
	Connexions	4,220,230	-2.7%	4,105,983	-0.2%	4,098,631
	Children's Fund	940,453	0.0%	940,453	0.0%	940,453
	Positive Activities for Young People	159,231	71.8%	273,551	29.9%	355,208
	Teenage Pregnancy	187,000	0.0%	187,000	0.0%	187,000
	Children's Social Care Workforce	118,739	0.1%	118,860	0.2%	119,088
	Care Matters White Paper	233,534	36.7%	319,259	15.5%	368,845
Child Death Review Processes	47,010	2.9%	48,368	4.3%	50,430	
	Sub-total	9,594,953		10,412,887		9,673,476
Home Office	Stronger Safer Communities	583,664	0.0%	583,664	0.0%	583,664
	Young People Substance Misuse Partnership	88,851	0.0%	88,851	0.0%	88,851
	Sub-total	672,515		672,515		672,515
	Total	22,151,062		33,228,809		32,606,919

Appendix C

Committed ABG by Directorate 2008/09

Grant	Purpose of the Grant	Allocation £000
Adult, Health and Community Services		
Carers	To stimulate diversity and flexibility in the provision of breaks for carers or direct services to carers to support them in their caring role.	1,674
Adults social care workforce	To support the establishment of enhanced human resource management practice across the whole of the social care workforce, including ensuring appropriate levels of training and qualification in the whole of the social care workforce.	1,078
Mental Capacity Act and Independent Mental Capacity Advocate Service	The Mental Capacity Act 2005 became law on 1st April 2007. The grant is to: a) train staff across the Implementation Network to understand the implications of the Act and to act accordingly; b) commission an Independent Mental Capacity Advocate (IMCA) service, and c) increase the staff time needed for assessments of capacity and best interests decisions.	141
Mental Health	To provide mental health services for adults of working age. Spending proposals are discussed with the Mental Health National Service Framework Local Implementation Network & agreed by key statutory partnership agencies.	1,145
Preserved Rights	To provide financial assistance in discharging responsibilities for meeting the costs of residential care for people with preserved rights from prior to 2002/03.	2,572
Supporting People Administration	Contribution towards the costs of administering the Supporting People programme.	323
Learning and Disability Development Fund	To support implementation of the agenda set out in the learning disability white paper "Valuing People". Until 2007/08 this has been allocated to PCTs for local Learning Disability Partnership Boards to determine its allocation. This service has previously been commissioned from the County Council, hence the on-going commitments.	373
Total AHCS		7,306

Grant	Purpose of the Grant	Allocation £000
Environment and Economy		
Detrunking	To provide support in recognition of local authority's responsibilities for the routine maintenance of roads that were previously the responsibility of the Highways Agency.	389
Road Safety Grant	To replace the funding provided for safety cameras via the netting off funding arrangement for the National Safety Camera Programme.	1,415
Rural Bus Subsidy	Introduced in 1998/99. This revenue funding pays for new or enhanced rural bus services, their marketing and administration.	1,043
Total E&E		2,847

Appendix C

Committed ABG by Directorate 2008/09

Grant	Purpose of the Grant	Allocation £000
Children, Young People and Families		
Choice Advisors	To help families optimise their choices about school places using all the information to hand, including over-subscription criteria, local knowledge of what individual schools have to offer, information about schools in different local authority areas, with additional advice covering local authority school-admission regimes and individual schools' admission-criteria.	25
Schools Improvement Partners (SIP)	To provide financial assistance to an authority to support its management of the SIP function.	252
Education Health Partnership	To support the maintenance and development of local healthy schools programmes in meeting the requirements of the National Healthy Schools Programme.	81
Extended School Start-Up Costs	Intended to support schools, by providing access to a core set of extended services, in raising standards of pupil motivation, aspiration, achievement and behaviour and contributing to a wide range of other Government targets including childcare, children's services, community cohesion, neighbourhood renewal, adult learning, combating child poverty, health inequalities and crime reduction.	446
Sustainable Travel General Duty	To assist in fulfilling duties set out in Sustainable Schools Travel Strategy (SSTS).	42
Schools Development Grant	To support improvements in teaching and learning in schools, leading to higher standards of attainment for every learner.	748
Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)	To enable authorities to carry forward their joint strategies with the NHS and other agencies to develop CAMHS under S.31 of the Local Government Act 2003 in accordance with local needs & priorities, as set out in local CAMHS Development Strategies.	606
Children's Fund	The programme aims to identify at an early stage children and young people at risk of social exclusion, and make sure they receive the help and support they need to achieve their potential.	125
14-19 Flexible Funding Pot	To promote co-ordination between school, colleges etc. to create greater options for pupils including non academic qualifications.	130
Teenage Pregnancy (the team is now known as Respect Yourself)	To support the implementation of local teenage pregnancy strategies & ensure that robust arrangements are in place for the co-ordination & delivery of agreed local action plan which underpin delivery of the 10 year National Pregnancy Strategy (launched in 1999). Includes allocation to fund teachers on a Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Personal, Social & Health Education (PSHE) certification programme.	159
Children's social care workforce	To support the establishment of enhanced human resource management practice across the whole of the social care workforce, including ensuring appropriate levels of training and qualification in the whole of the social care workforce. This will include staff working in the private and voluntary sectors.	119
Extended Rights to Free Transport	Local Authorities must provide transport where they consider it necessary to ensure that a child goes to school. Where this transport is needed it must be provided free of charge. The grant is to support the rights to this free transport that have recently been extended.	167
Total CYPF		2,900

Appendix C

Area Based Grant Allocated by the Public Service Board in 2007/08

Grant	Purpose of the Grant	2008/09		
		Committed £000	Uncommitted £000	Total £000
Connexions	To provide advice and support for young people to try and help them get where they would like to be. Connexions is a modern public service and young people are actively involved in its design and delivery. The service is managed locally by Connexions Partnerships that bring together all the key youth support services.	4,220	-	4,220
Positive Activities for Young People	To provide a programme of activities for young people aged 8-19, at risk of social exclusion or of being involved in community crime.	159	-	159
Primary National Strategy Central Coordination	To support central coordination costs in delivering the Primary National Strategy, including supporting the introduction of revised literacy and numeracy frameworks, greater focus on targeting underperforming schools and under attaining pupils and supporting personalisation.	268	5	273
Secondary National Strategy Central Coordination	To support central coordination costs in delivering the Secondary National Strategy, including greater focus on targeting underperforming schools and under attaining pupils and supporting personalisation.	253	-	253
Secondary National Strategy Behaviour and Attendance	To support the integration of behaviour and attendance into the Secondary National Strategy.	125	1	126
Safer and Stronger Communities Fund	To tackle crime, anti-social behaviour and drugs, empowering communities, and improving the condition of streets and public spaces; in particular for disadvantaged neighbourhoods where these issues often require more attention. Resources are also used to fund the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRP's).	164	420	584
School Travel Advisors	To fund local authority based school travel advisers (STAs) helping schools carry out surveys and prepare and implement travel plans.	71	-	71
Total		5,260	426	5,686

Appendix C

New Mandatory Requirements for Utilising Uncommitted Resources

Title	Purpose of the Grant	Proposed Use £000	% of ABG Element	Planned Use of Uncommitted Resources
Local Involvement Networks	To commission a public involvement in health scrutiny service. This service was previously commissioned by the Health Authority.	212	100%	This is a mandatory service. Currently tenders are being sought to provide this service for three years, as the County Council is not permitted to undertake this function internally.
Child Death Review Processes	To provide support to enable authorities to meet the new duty, from April 2008, that all Local Children Safeguarding Boards (LCSB) put in place mechanisms to review child deaths.	47	100%	The authority is planning to join a West Midlands Authority Consortium to provide this statutory review service, with the aim to increase the effectiveness of the funds made available.
Care Matters White Paper	To support authorities to build capacity and make changes to implement the measures set out in the White Paper "Care Matters - Time for Change" published in June 2007.	234	100%	There are a number of mandatory responsibilities, these include annual £100 trust fund tops up for all Looked after Children, £2,000 bursary for all young people in care who go on to higher education, £500 a year for each child in care at risk of not reaching the expected standards of achievement to support their education and development needs and increase the availability of one-to-one tutoring.
Total		493		

Appendix C

Previous Decisions Utilising Uncommitted Area Based Grant

Title	Purpose of the Grant	Proposed Use £000	Planned Use of Uncommitted Resources
Extended School Start-Up Costs	Intended to support schools, by providing access to a core set of extended services, in raising standards of pupil motivation, aspiration, achievement and behaviour and contributing to a wide range of other Government targets including childcare, children's services, community cohesion, neighbourhood renewal, adult learning, combating child poverty, health inequalities and crime reduction.	590	Start up grants for Extended Schools would be made available to schools and other organisations for a three-year period. Other resources would be used to support the effective running of the service covering fixed office / running costs as well as information publications that the service requires to be effective. These costs are all currently met from this grant, without these additional resources the team would be unable to operate.
Road Safety Grant	To replace the funding provided for safety cameras via the netting off funding arrangement for the National Safety Camera Programme.	355	External School Education Driver Training (£101,000), Radio Campaigns (£111,000), PC & Equipment Maintenance (£55,000), Speedaware Campaign (£5,000), Vandalism & Maintenance (£83,000).
	Total	945	

County Council Services Proposals for Continuation of Existing Funding Levels

Title	Purpose of the Grant	Proposed Use £000	Planned Use of Uncommitted Resources
Carers	To stimulate diversity and flexibility in the provision of breaks for carers or direct services to carers to support them in their caring role.	294	Reshaping and extension of services to reduce the impact of caring on older carers (aged 50 plus) and carers of older people. The grant and the £56,000 increase will be used to provide: investment in earlier intervention and support to promote carers' wellbeing, minimise risk of carer breakdown and enable carers to continue caring for longer, comprehensive emergency carer support service – expansion of existing services to ensure that appropriate emergency back up is available to parent carers and carers of adults with learning disabilities and people with mental health needs, investment in support to enable carers to acquire skills and knowledge which will assist them in their caring responsibilities, equip them for returning to employment or support their leisure interests, the expansion of support for employed carers and carers who wish to return to work and awareness training targeting staff in LAA agencies to enhance awareness of carers perspective and contribute to improvement of carers' experience of using local services.
Adults social care workforce	To support the establishment of enhanced human resource management practice across the whole of the social care workforce, including ensuring appropriate levels of training and qualification in the whole of the social care workforce. This will include staff working in the private and voluntary sectors. The Human Resources Development Strategy (HRDS) grant should support workforce planning and the National Minimum Dataset.	144	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dementia, £60,000 - training £50,000 and IT equipment £10,000 • Older People Challenging Behaviour, £59,000 - project officer, training and equipment • Protection Of Vulnerable Adults , £25,000 – training of staff

Title	Purpose of the Grant	Proposed Use £000	Planned Use of Uncommitted Resources
Mental Health Act and Independent Mental Capacity Advocate Service	The Mental Health Capacity Act 2005 became law on 1st April 2007. DH made resources available to enable Councils with Social Services Responsibilities (CSSRs) to a) train staff across their Implementation Network to understand the implications of the Act and to act accordingly; b) commission an Independent Mental Capacity Advocate (IMCA) service, and C) increase the staff time needed for assessments of capacity and best interest decisions.	76	The Deprivation of Liberty Standards (DOLS) is coming into effect later this year. This will incur significant training, support and advice implications on all providers, both internally and externally, also social workers who assess needs. This impact will need to be resourced by the Adult Social Workers and by the new role will also impact on resources for training and introduction and recruitment to these roles.
Mental Health	To provide mental health services for adults of working age. Spending proposals are discussed with the Mental Health National Service Framework Local Implementation Network & agreed by key statutory partnership agencies.	44	Mental Health is faced with significant new legislation in the Capacity Act, DOLS, also MHW's and expanding advocacy. The Government has recognised these costs and has increased the grants in order to respond to the new requirements. All of the additional grant will be required and potentially more in the next few years.
Choice Advisors	To help families optimise their choices about school places using all the information to hand, including over-subscription criteria, local knowledge of what individual schools have to offer, information about schools in different local authority areas, with additional advice covering local authority school-admission regimes and individual schools' admission-criteria.	10	'The other resources are used to support the effective running of the service. This funding currently meets the office expenses and running costs of this service. These resources are also used to provide information and publications to enable the service to be effective. These costs are currently met from this grant and without this funding the post would be ineffective.

Title	Purpose of the Grant	Proposed Use £000	Planned Use of Uncommitted Resources
Education Health Partnership	To support the maintenance and development of local healthy schools programmes in meeting the requirements of the National Healthy Schools Programme.	24	'This is the source of funding for implementing the Healthy Schools programme. The money covers staff costs and running costs as well as information publications and training to schools that the service requires in order to be effective.
Schools Intervention Grant	To raise standards where a school has received a low OFSTED rating before the school requires special measures.	163	'Funds are used to support good practice / successful schools to aid the recovery of schools in or near special measures. The grant provides financial support to successful schools so that they can share their practice with less successful schools. For example, the money has been used to pay Etone school for their support to Hartshill School. A major priority for the priority is to reduce the number of schools in a category of concern through divisive interventions in schools. The number of schools in categories of concern has been raised by CPA inspectors as an area for improvement. The speed of any improvement will be slower without the funding to support interventions.
Schools Development Grant	Support improvements in teaching and learning in schools, leading to higher standards of attainment for every learner.	265	Additional resources would be used to support school improvement and aid achieving both the CYPP plan and the LAA Education Targets. This funding is currently used to support head teachers in small schools to improve key stage 2 performance; provide a training and development programme for teaching assistants and support staff in schools; summer schools for gifted and talented children and support for children with their transition from year 6 to 7.
Children's Fund	Launched in November 2000 as part of the government's commitment to tackle disadvantage among children and young people. The programme aims to identify at an early stage children and young people at risk of social exclusion, and make sure they receive the help and support they need to achieve their potential.	815	There are a number of commissioned services relating to 5 to 13 year olds. The contract for these services runs to 31/03/08. All of these commissioned services have been reviewed against an agreed set of criteria, including an assessment of value for money, government guidelines and a needs assessment for delivery of the Children and Young People's Plan. The recommendations as a result of this review are to continue to commission all except one. The contracts are for youth inclusion work which supports the early intervention programme for younger children, short breaks for disabled children, mental health support, domestic violence support and other services. If the decision was not to support this proposal all current providers in line with good practice would need to be given 3 months notice and this will need a budget allocation of £158,000.

Title	Purpose of the Grant	Proposed Use £000	Planned Use of Uncommitted Resources
14-19 Flexible Funding Pot	To promote co-ordination between school, colleges etc. to create greater options for pupils including non academic qualifications.	23	The Authority has a statutory requirement to ensure pupils can access diplomas across the County. This is a new curriculum and requires collaboration between schools to ensure this will be achieved. This funding will be used to support the 14-19 Partnerships in meeting this challenging statutory requirement.
Teenage Pregnancy (the team is now known as Respect Yourself)	To support the implementation of local teenage pregnancy strategies & ensure that robust arrangements are in place for the co-ordination & delivery of agreed local action plan which underpin delivery of the 10 year National Pregnancy Strategy (launched in 1999). Includes allocation to fund teachers on a Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Personal, Social & Health Education (PSHE) certification programme.	28	'The cost of this service exceeds the grant and the County Council funds the remaining costs from its own resources. The only costs allocated as committed are the salary costs of the team. Without this additional funding the team would not be effective in its work with young people. This funding currently meets the office expenses and running costs of this service. These resources are also used to provide information, publications and other resources to enable the service to work with young people.
	Total	1,886	