



Standards

For

Locality Planning

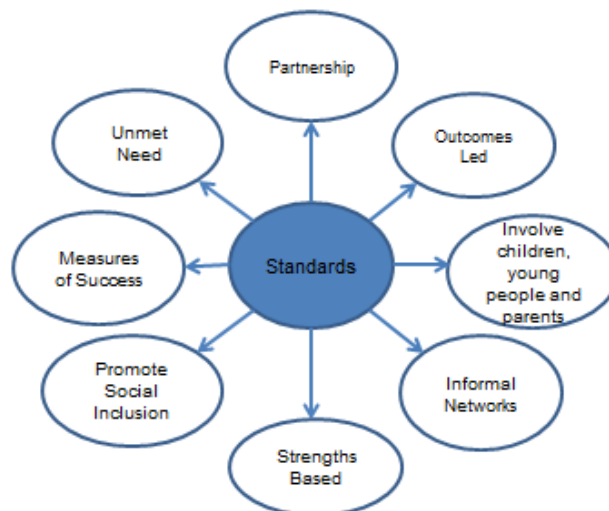
Groups

April 2019

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Introduction

Locality Planning Groups provide the bedrock for multi-agency, multi-sectoral outcomes based planning in local areas to take place. They provide vital knowledge to identify local needs at early stages and are essential in planning early intervention services. Locality Planning Groups cover different geographical areas ranging from a few electoral wards to full district council areas and have a wide and varying range of members. It is recognised that whilst there is no one-size-fits-all model for Locality Planning Groups; there are key components that should be common in all of them which is that all members will focus on improving the outcomes for children, young people and families living in that area. The Locality Planning Groups therefore need a common strategic direction, through which they can assess how much they add value to local planning, build relationships, collaborative working and identify local gaps in services. These standards for locality planning will provide direction on how to do this. The following standards are based on extensive work on family support by Pinkerton, Dolan and Canavan (2006) and are adapted for Locality Planning.



It is important to note that this is **not** an evaluation framework; it will contribute to quality assurance but is not the only measure. Locality Planning Groups will still need to measure the progress of their action plan through Outcomes Based Accountability.

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It is ***not*** a framework for comparison – each Locality Planning Group is unique and cannot be compared since each will vary in geography, population, demography, politics, and service structure. It will help Locality Planning Groups to work out its own pathway.

The standards will give Locality Planning Groups the opportunity to reflect on their progress and identify some aspects which may need to be worked on together.

The standards should be carried out ***by the group*** at the start of each planning cycle (depending on the length of the plan this could be every 3 years) in group discussions, facilitated by the Locality Planner and Chair.

The Locality Planning Group should rate each of the Standards as:

Red – Underdeveloped

Amber – Average

Green – Well developed

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The process for completing the framework is as follows:

- i. Based on a facilitated group discussion. Where possible the facilitation will be carried out by the Locality Planner for the area and the Locality Planning Group Chair person
- ii. Each of the questions is explored by the group. Members need to collectively consider each of the eight standards by debating the strengths and weaknesses in their locality for each
- iii. A score for each question is agreed. The scoring is based on a consensus view which will estimate the base-line level (self-scoring using RAG) for each standard
- iv. Members need to form a development/ action plan for their locality. This will be based on the priority areas that need to be addressed as indicated by the self-score in relation to each standard.
- v. Members need to agree a time frame for review (e.g. annually), in order to take stock of progress. The review requires Locality Planning Groups to self-score again, to re-prioritise, and to move on to address new areas. Best practice is built up incrementally
- vi. Groups need to be critically reflective
- vii. Groups should not be surprised if some of the scores are low these are the standards the group can focus on addressing
- viii. Where a standard has more than one question assign a colour to each and then pick the most common one.

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STANDARD 1	Working in PARTNERSHIP is an integral part of Locality Planning. Partnership includes children, young people, parents, professionals and community.
QUESTIONS FOR LPG SELF SCORE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do you have an agreed shared understanding for the LPG? • How healthy is the culture of joint working – partners feedback • What is your assessment of the effectiveness of current arrangements for sharing information across agencies?
STANDARD 2:	Locality Planning Groups are OUTCOMES LED
QUESTIONS FOR LPG SELF SCORE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the group have common arrangements for reviewing needs in the locality? • How would you rate progress towards a common framework for assessing and reviewing need in this locality? • How would you rate the current quality of interface between member services? • Do members carryout OBA when planning their individual services locally? • Does the group use OBA when planning together?

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STANDARD 3	INVOLVEMENT OF CHILDREN YOUNG PEOPLE AND PARENTS IN THE PLANNING AND EVALUATION in the planning process is practiced in an on-going basis
QUESTIONS FOR LPG SELF SCORE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there any arrangements currently existing to enable children/young people to be involved in planning and evaluation? • Are there any arrangements in place in individual agencies for listening to children and young people? • Is there agreement that this should be a common value of the LPG? • How would you rate the overall quality of arrangements for listening to children and young people in this locality? • Are there any arrangements in place to obtain children, young people and families feedback re: access to services in their local community? • Are there agreed facilitated processes for involvement?
STANDRAD 4	Locality Planning promotes the view that effective planning will STRENGTHEN INFORMAL NETWORKS
QUESTIONS FOR LPG SELF SCORE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has the group reviewed community networks and existing links? • Has community asset mapping been considered? • Have members identified gaps in service areas locally?

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STANDARD 5	Locality Planning Group reflects a STRENGTHS BASED perspective, which is mindful of resilience as a characteristic of many children's and families lives
QUESTIONS FOR LPG SELF SCORE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the partnership mission statement and principles value resilience? • Do LPG members use assessment frameworks that measure strengths? • To what extent is this approach shared across member's assessment framework? • Do agencies track positive changes based on user feedback? • Are there agreed baseline measures for tracking the impact of early intervention?
STANDARD 6	Does the LPG have an agreed protocol for Family Support Hubs to report UNMET NEED at the LPG
QUESTIONS FOR LPG SELF SCORE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there a locally agreed reporting mechanism for FSHs to raise unmet need to the LPG? • Do the Family Support Hubs give regular updates to the LPG? • Does the LPG take FSH information into account when carrying out action planning?

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STANDARD 7	MEASURES OF SUCCESS are built into LPGs to demonstrate that the planning has resulted in improved outcomes for children, young people and families
QUESTIONS FOR LPG SELF SCORE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there agreed processes for tracking community outcomes (trends) • Is there agreement across members re: common standards to quality assure LPG processes • How would you rate the effectiveness of current arrangements for measuring outcomes for children and young people in this locality? • How would you rate the effectiveness of current arrangements in this locality for reviewing quality and best practice?
STANDARD 8	Locality Planning Groups aim to PROMOTE SOCIAL INCLUSION and address issues around ethnicity, disability and urban/rural communities
QUESTIONS FOR LPG SELF SCORE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there processes in place to enable members in the LPG to promote social inclusion and address issues around ethnicity, disability and urban/rural communities • Are there opportunities to include the voice of disadvantaged groups/communities? • How would you rate the arrangements currently in place by agencies in this locality to promote social inclusion?