

# Policy Agreements

## Policy Agreements

### What are Policy Agreements?

The 22 local authorities in Wales are a significant mechanism through which Wales Assembly Government achieves its goals for Wales. The work of the local authorities is directed through strategic plans and funded through business plans. A balance is achieved between national direction and local discretion. Where WAG wants to ensure that strategic priorities are achieved throughout Wales, it has the option to agree specific targets, referred to as Policy Agreements, with local authorities. In return for making and delivering upon the agreements over a 3 year period, local authorities receive a Performance Incentive Grant, which they can deploy as they see fit.

Local authorities are also expected to identify key targets for themselves and to create strong links between Policy Agreements, the Community Plan and the local authority Improvement Plan.

### Pembrokeshire Policy Agreements 2004- 2007

For the second round of policy agreements WAG identified the following strategic priorities, which are seen as issues that matter most to people:

Helping more people into jobs  
Improving health and well-being  
Developing strong and safe communities  
Creating better jobs and skills  
Sustainable development and equality of opportunity

Full details of the Policy Agreements agreed by PCC and WAG can be found in PCC Corporate and Improvement Plan, which is available directly from the County Council or via their website [www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk](http://www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk)

Some of the targets which may be of especial interest to the voluntary sector include:

- Increase the number of childcare places available to working families
- Number of placements on Intermediate Labour Market schemes
- % Pembrokeshire residents surveyed who agree that Pembrokeshire is a nice place to live
- % Pembrokeshire residents surveyed who feel safe in the area
- % students participating in moderately intense sport / exercise for at least 25 minutes daily, 5 days per week
- % adults [age 16+] participating in moderately intense sport / exercise for at least 25 minutes daily, 5 days per week
- the rate of delayed transfers of care for social care reasons per 1000 population aged 75 or over

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- the number of older people [65+] helped to live at home
- the number of adults 65+ whom the local authority supports in residential care and nursing homes
- % exchanges meeting broadband trigger levels
- % highways and relevant land inspected of a high or acceptable standard of cleanliness
- % municipal waste recycled, reused or composted
- level 1 of the Equality Standard for Local Government in Wales

### How can the Voluntary and Community Sector contribute to policy agreements?

According to the principles of joint working detailed in *A Future Together* local authorities should provide opportunities for the Voluntary Sector to contribute to the identification, delivery and monitoring of Policy Agreements.

In Pembrokeshire the process whereby this will happen is being developed by the Voluntary Sector Liaison Group. Policy Agreements are now a regular item on the agenda of this group and progress is reported quarterly by the County Council Corporate Planning Manager.

Voluntary and Community Groups which receive funding through Service Level Agreements with Pembrokeshire County Council may find that Policy Agreement targets are woven into their contractual arrangements. For instance it has been decided that one indicator of vibrant local communities could be the involvement of young people in local community decision making. Gennex 25-7, the Youth Forums and Youth Assembly for Pembrokeshire, has therefore accepted, as part of its service level agreement, a target to link local forums with their local Town or Community Council. By 2006/7 at least 10 local forums need to meet at least twice per year with their local council.

### Want to know more?

Read Pembrokeshire County Council Corporate and Improvement Plan which is available in libraries, via PCC website or in the PAVS Centre for Voluntary Action in Haverfordwest.

Contact the Corporate Planning Manager at PCC

Contact the Partnership Support Officer at PAVS

Contact a member of the VSLG