



Community of Practice on Third Sector Indicators

The National Indicator Set is part of the new performance framework for monitoring and regulating local government set out in the Local Government & Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. There are a set of 198 National Indicators. These indicators cover all the national priority outcomes which local authorities will be responsible for delivering. Each LAA will have up to 35 of these targets agreed as priorities in their Local Area Agreements.

The Office of the Third Sector 'owns' two indicators:

- National Indicator 6 – participation in regular volunteering
- National Indicator 7 – environment for a thriving third sector

The Office of the Third Sector (OTS), the Improvement & Development Agency (IDeA) and the Local Government Association (LGA) are working together to develop a Community of Practice which aims to support local authorities and their partners in improving performance against NIs 6 and 7.

It will do this by:

- ensuring that Local Authorities have access to information and support which will help them meet their targets against NIs 6 and 7
- disseminating good practice to all local authorities and their partners

On-line Community of Practice

A Community of Practice (CoP) is a network of individuals with common problems or interests who get together to explore ways of working, identify common solutions, and share good practice and ideas. An on-line Community of Practice is freely accessible via the internet and allows knowledge development and sharing ideas through:

- Forums –where you can discuss and exchange ideas.
- Document Library – where you can store, share and track documents.
- Event Calendar – where you can find out what's going on.
- News Feeds – where you can keep up with the latest news from relevant websites.
- Wikis – where you can add and edit content collectively.
- Blogs - a personal journal of your thoughts/ideas/opinion

Regional events

Events for key local authority staff leading on delivering NIs 6 and 7 will be held in the autumn, run with the Government Office Third Sector Leads. These events will enable face to face exchange of ideas to support the on-line Community of Practice. Regions may focus on different methods or good practice in their areas.

Links

As the programme develops, specific activity will be coordinated to link with the Local Area Agreement review & refresh schedule.

We will link with the work of the Government Office Third Sector Leads, the Regional Improvement & Efficiency Partnerships (RIEPs), the Commission for the Compact (C4C), IDeA's work on Beacon Councils and the Partnership Improvement Programme, as well as with work within the third sector led by key stakeholders such as National Association of Voluntary & Community Action (NAVCA) and National Council of Voluntary Organisations (NCVO).

More information

- For further information contact jo.crease@cabinet-office.x.gsi.gov.uk or helen.hughes@idea.gov.uk
- Office of the Third Sector website: www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/thirdsector
- Sign up for the OTS bi-monthly e-newsletter at:
http://interactive.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/third_sector/subscription/default.aspx
- To view existing Communities of Practice go to <http://www.communities.idea.gov.uk/welcome.do>
- Sign up for IDeA Knowledge weekly bulletin at:
<http://www.idea.gov.uk/idk/reg/user-register.do>