

Local Area Agreements (LAAs)

Some Lessons From the Road

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An LAA is whatever you want it to be...

- Maturing central/local relations
- Joined up governance
- Devolution
- Community leadership
- More efficient use of resources
- Added value
- Developing new ways of working

Government - key messages on LAAs

- **LAA is localism in action: local governing bodies need to make this work**
- “This is a journey, not a destination..there is no blueprint for the end result” – Phil Woolas
- No additional inspection activity for LAAs
- Likely to be a “key factor” in future inspection – Catherine Baker, Development Manager, Audit Commission
- LAAs is likely to get bigger in the future, consider consultation document on LSPs – published last week.

Outcomes/Targets - Business Case Top Tips

- The stronger the case, the stronger the chances of success
- Use the Audit Commission's Area Profile for Oldham
- Barnsley LAA's succinct statistical analysis of partners' worrying trends amongst children and young people, e.g. under 16s in A&E for alcohol intoxication
- Not just statistics – people's views, local press, complaints, visible examples, e.g. graffiti, rubbish, clean parks and streets
- Use evidence, reports, documents from *all* relevant partners

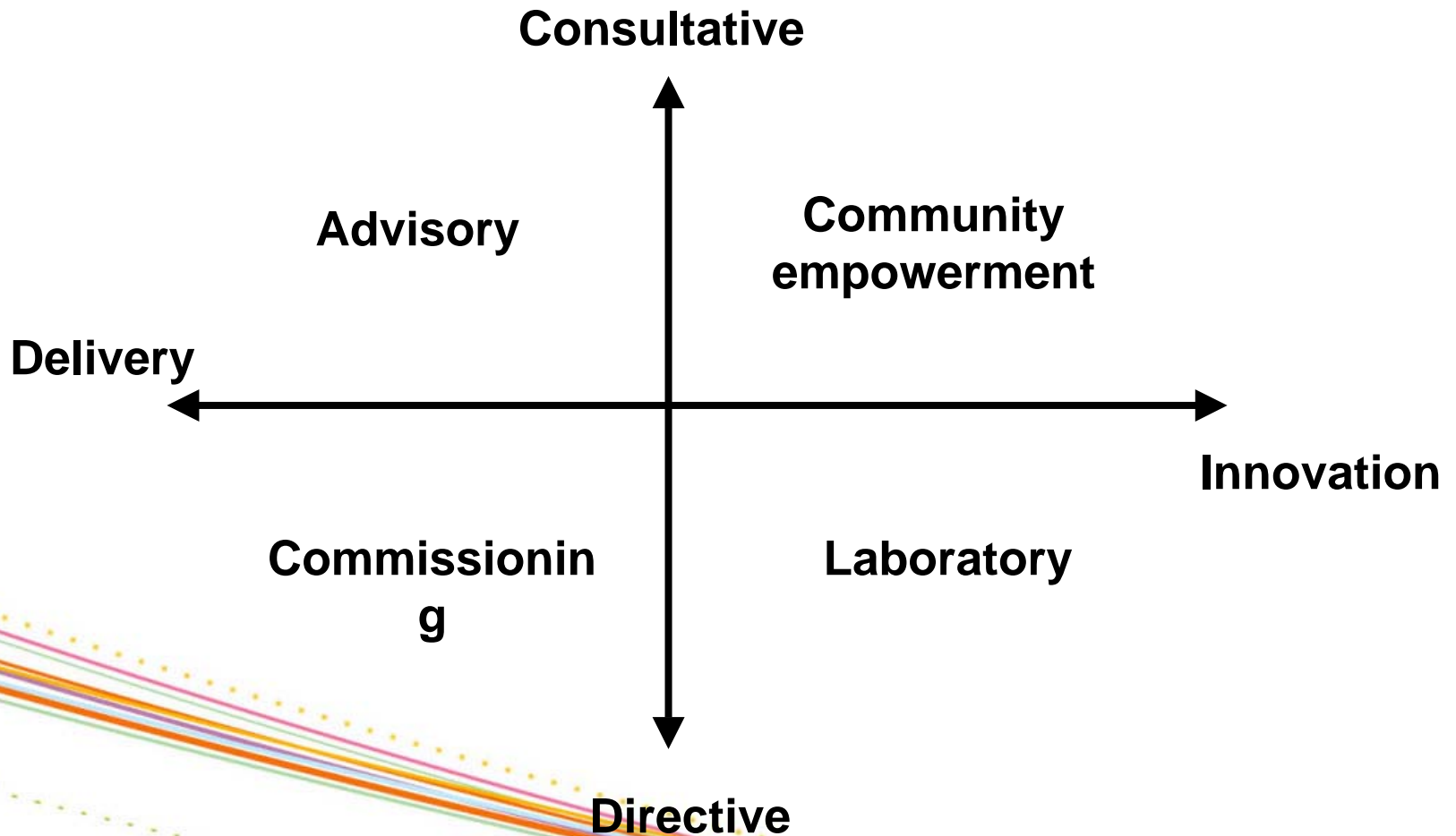
Learning from the pilots – partnership challenges

- LSP strategic focus to commissioning / delivery focus and performance board roles - are structures fit for purpose?
- Partner agency reorganisation
- May feel quite threatening to some partners
- “Shaky relationships and fudged communication strategies will be exposed” - Sue Goss OPM
- VCS engagement must be planned and supported

Learning from the pilots - governance

- Governance will be absolutely key to **delivering** your LAA
- What are you trying to **achieve**? What needs to **change**?
- Who do you want to **involve** (including communities)?
- Does each partner have clear **roles and responsibilities**?
- How will you take decisions, move money between blocks, manage performance, deal with underspends, handle communications, etc?
- Where will the (democratic) accountability be sited?
- How will the LAA governance relate to LSPs?
- Are LSP structures fit for this purpose?
- Servicing – How will it be supported?

Research – modes of governance



Warwick, OPM, UWE, EIUA

Learning from the pilots – 1

- GOs are extremely pressured
- Not all Government departments / offices are moving at the same rate
- Funding only guaranteed to a point (your LAA will be subject to the spending review)
- Need to ensure an overall reduction in monitoring requirements (LAA may increase it in some instances)

Learning from the pilots – 2

- *the LAA has accelerated partnership working, but changing structures (ie in health, making this hard work)*
- *beneficial for community leadership – but many politicians not engaged*
- *model of delivery has changed - instead of one lead body the new model is much more dependent on organisations working together on shared outcomes*
- *translating outcomes into doing things ‘genuinely differently’ still difficult to evidence*
- *uncharted territory, who holds who to account, for what, how*

Issues:

- *setting up performance management systems that work for all partners*
- *jury is still out on whether reporting requirements have actually reduced*

Further help

Helpdesk

Tel: 020 7756 7611

Email: info@localagreements.net

Website www.idea.gov.uk

**Use the quickfind menu to access LAA
and LPSA resources**