



Office of the
Deputy Prime Minister

Creating sustainable communities

November 2005 Milestones Summary

10th January 2005



The following report is a summary of information provided by Administering Authorities in England as part of the November 2005 Milestones returns.

Note that the percentages in some tables may not add up to exactly 100% due to rounding.

Returns Received

Excellent AAs - 37/44

Non Excellent AAs - 103/105

140/149* received in total

*(Isles of Scilly not included)

Service Review Deadline

We once again asked authorities to update us on whether they felt confident they would meet the deadline of the end of March 2006 for completion of all of their service reviews.

The responses on this occasion were as follows:

No	1	1%
Yes	138	99%
Blank	1	1%
	140	100%

In the August 2005 Milestones, 3 authorities informed ODPM they were not confident they would meet the service review deadline; all 3 of these authorities have reported that they are now confident.



Commissioning Body

Of the 140 AAs who have responded to the Milestones, 75 have stated that not all partners attended their last Commissioning Body meeting.

From the details they have provided, the tables below show how many AAs have identified a particular group as absent, or as having a member absent, over the last 3 Milestones:

November 2005

Instances of non attendance					
Probation	PCT / HEALTH	District/s	Housing	Social Services	Other
26	36	19	4	3	4

August 2005

Instances of non attendance					
Probation	PCT / HEALTH	District/s	Other AA Rep	Social Services	Other
29	38	17	1	4	4

May 2005

Instances of non attendance					
Probation	PCT / HEALTH	District/s	Other AA Rep	Social Services	Other
21	39	21	13	3	1

As you can see there is a similar pattern month on month across each partner group, although in November 2005 'Other AA Rep' has become more specifically 'Housing'.





SPLS

Once again authorities have very kindly provided us with updated SPLS IT contacts within their Supporting People Teams.

2 authorities have indicated that they have changed their software suppliers in the last quarter.

Following examination of information submitted to ODPM as part of the November 2005 SPLS Extract, 59 of the authorities who successfully submitted an extract provided KPI information for less that 50% of their services.

Differential Charging

An ongoing part of the Milestones is to assess the levels of occurrence of differential charging across AAs and providers. In order to assess this we have, in a number of Milestones since May 2004, asked authorities to inform us if they are aware of any circumstances where providers holding a block subsidy contract in their authority are charging users a different amount for the housing related support provided, to the level of subsidy payable under the SP contract.

In the table below you will find a summary of the ‘yes’ responses received each time we have asked the question, along with a count of the total provider contracts and units involved.

Milestone Return	No’ of AAs who said ‘Yes’	No’ of Provider Contracts Involved	No’ of Units Involved
November 2005	67	233	28,576
May 2005	68	200	34,632
November 2004	51	129	23,187
August 2004	46	148	27,165
May 2004	44	125	30,965

Note that each number provides a snapshot picture only.

Across the 67 authorities a number of providers have been identified, with 9 separate provider organisations being highlighted across more than 1 Administering Authority.



The figures in the table above reflect instances of AAs having knowledge of such instances only. Although the number of provider contracts reported is higher this reporting period, the number of units reported to be involved is significantly lower.

2005/2006 Grant Spend

136 AAs have provided details of SP grant spend for the first 7 months of the 2005/2006 financial year.

Using the average (mean) of each AA's total spend to date, a projected annual total can be calculated.

It would appear from current information, that should spend continue at the same rate as the current average monthly values, AAs are potentially on track for a combined underspend of £15.5 million (0.9%), as against the 05/06 grant total of £1.71 billion.

There are:

- § 72 AAs who may have an overspend
- § 64 AAs who may have an underspend
- § 14 AAs have either not provided sufficient data for analysis or have not submitted a return for November.

Based on information provided, 4 authorities could be on target for a potentially low spend (less than or equal to 85% of their grant allocation) and a further 7 could be on target for a potentially high spend (greater than or equal to 116%).

Respect Agenda and Anti Social Behaviour

In order to understand the number of Supporting People services available specifically commissioned to contribute to the Respect Agenda and anti social behaviour, we have asked authorities to provide details of such services within their local areas.

143 AAs are included in the analysis of the Respect Agenda information, as an additional 3 excellent authorities have submitted this part of the questionnaire only.



When asked do they have links with their Anti Social Behaviour Units the 143 AAs responded as follows:

Responses	Count	%
Yes	90	63%
No	47	33%
Blank	6	4%
	143	100%

17 AAs have reported that they are commissioning services with Supporting People funding specifically to deal with families with anti social behaviour. This relates to 25 services across the 17 authorities with a combined capacity of 1,693 units and a combined monthly cost of £426,861 (annual figure of £5.1 mill).

26 authorities have also indicated that they have plans to commission new services to deal with families with anti social behaviour; 8 of which appear in the list of 17 authorities above.

13 AAs have reported that they are commissioning services with Supporting People funding to deal with reducing anti social behaviour and the Respect Agenda, other than those already reported for families.

This relates to 23 services across the 13 authorities with a combined capacity of 1,117 units and a combined monthly cost of £867,481 (annual figure of £10.4 mill).

69 AAs have also indicated that they have plans to commission new services to deal with groups with anti social behaviour other than those already reported for families; 8 of which appear in the list of 13 authorities above.

A combined overall picture of AAs, units and funding across both client group types is as follows:

48 services across 26 AAs, with a combined capacity of 2,810 units and a combined monthly cost of £1.3 mill (an annual figure of £15.5 mill).



Service Review Timetable

8 AAs have reported that they were not conducting service reviews in line with their current timetables. In August 2005 the number of AAs not in line with their timetables was 24; 21 in May 2005 and 62 in February 2005.

10 authorities have amended their service review timetables since August 2005.

The main reasons for falling behind schedule were (highest reported first):

- Staffing issues
- Reviews are taking longer than anticipated

Service Review Progress

Across England, AAs are now reporting that 94% of all service reviews are either completed or currently in progress; 80% in August 2005.

Looking at each authority individually, just 6 AAs are yet to achieve a level of 80% of service reviews in progress or completed (combined), however, 77 AAs are yet to achieve a level of 60% of reviews completed. There will, of course, be overlaps where some AAs fall within both categories. Taking this overlap into account, 79 authorities have yet to achieve both service review milestones.

Completed Reviews

15,765 (52%) service reviews have now been reported as complete across all authorities; 11,809 were reported up to August 2005 and 8,323 were reported up to May 2005.

3 authorities are yet to complete any reviews, however, 2 have reported that many (more than 80%) are currently in progress.

Of the 15,765 service reviews completed, 88% of decisions have been reported back to providers (85% in August 2005). However, 4 authorities have stated that they have not yet reported back any of their decisions to their providers. 16 further authorities are showing a low reporting rate of less than 70%.





Reviews in Progress

The total number of reviews reported to be currently in progress is 12,499.

The stages that the reviews were at, at the time of reporting, were as follows:

Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3
16%	28%	53%

The remaining 3% of in progress service reviews have not been allocated a stage by the authorities in question.

It is encouraging to see that in addition to the 15,765 service reviews already completed 53% of the 12,499 reviews currently in progress are at Stage 3.

Decommissioned Services

Of the 15,765 completed service reviews to date, 1,588 services have been reported to have been decommissioned; 10% of the completed reviews and 5% of the overall 30,103 service reviews to take place.

Note that the total number of service reviews to take place can fluctuate each quarter due to changes reported across all authorities.

A breakdown of Stage 4 outcomes for the decommissioned services is as follows:

Review Outcome	Count	%
Stage 4 - Decommissioned	738	46%
Stage 4 - Decommissioned - Have transferred service to a new provider	491	31%
Stage 4 - Decommissioned - Identified as non-SP	153	10%
Stage 4 - Decommissioned - No local need for the service	42	3%
Stage 4 - Decommissioned - Other	139	9%
Stage 4 - Decommissioned - Seeking to transfer service to a new provider	14	2%
	1,588	100%

Appeals

220 appeals have been made to date over 68 authorities; 178 appeals over 58 AAs as at August 2005. Of these AAs only 2 have reported to have had more than 10 appeals since the service review programme began.



Accreditation

2,360 providers have now been accredited in total by 106 AAs (1,895 in August 2005 and 1,319 May 2005).

28 AAs are yet to accredit any of their providers. A further 25 AAs have accredited some providers, but have reported very low numbers (less than 10).

The main reasons why providers are yet to be accredited are as follows:

Some to be finalised very soon / process has commenced	Provider currently completing forms / providing information	Resources	Cross / local AA policies now / soon to be approved	Reviews have been the priority	Being / will be carried out by consultants / other departments
5	7	2	3	1	7

17 authorities have reported that they are not using the accreditation passporting framework to accredit providers. The main reasons why not are:

AA have chosen not to use it / not confident	Partially passporting	STOs / Internal procedures do not permit	Haven't used it yet, but would use when appropriate	Accreditation not started yet	Other
4	3	3	3	2	2

From the 28 AAs who are yet to accredit any providers, 8 are also included in the list of AAs that they are not using the passporting framework.

1,196 providers have been passported through the accreditation process by 84 AAs; that's 51% of the total providers accredited to date (51% of 2,360).





QAF Lite

When asked how many services have been assessed using the QAF Lite, 80 AAs reported that they used the QAF Lite to assess a total of 676 services (479 services across 63 AAs in August 2005). 50 AAs are yet to use the QAF Lite (71 AAs in August 2005).

Additional Service Review Funding

For those 59 authorities who received additional funding to assist specifically with their service review programmes, we have asked them to update us on how they are using the funding to progress their service reviews.

Most AAs are spending the funding in line with the proposals as set out in their original bid. Just 2 authorities have reported that they have not kept to the original proposals, however, the money is being used to progress their service review programmes.

The funding is being spent, in the main, in the following areas:

- Staffing costs and training
- Consultants

Summary

ODPM will ensure that contact is made with those authorities who have highlighted any issues of concerns shortly.

The next Milestone Questionnaires are due to be sent to AAs at the beginning of February 2006 for return approximately 4 weeks later.

ODPM will continue to monitor those AAs who have received additional service review monies using questions incorporated within the Milestones Workbook.