How effective are Place Based Approaches to the Delivery of Public Services?

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Big Claims Made for PBAs

- Social inclusion
- Regeneration
- Public service improvement
  - More responsive services – participation
  - More joined up services – integration
  - More cost-effective services - pooled budgets
Phase 1 – Area Based Initiatives

- **New Deal for Communities**
  - Time-limited interventions targeted on deprived (inner city) neighbourhoods - social inclusion and community led regeneration

- **Sure Start**
  - Social Inclusion Partnerships

- **Employment Zones**

- **Health Action Zones**

- **Communities First**
Social impacts stronger than economic improvements

Displacement and deadweight

Crime reduced but little change in educational attainment, health and employment

Sustainability – ‘funny money’ failed to bend mainstream services
Phase 2 – Local Strategic Partnerships

- Local authority wide partnerships to develop strategic plans and address ‘wicked problems’
  - LSPs (+ Local Area Agreements and Comprehensive Area Assessments)
  - Community Planning Partnerships (+ Single Outcome Framework)
  - Local Service Boards

- Partnerships, visions and strategies, but again limited evidence of improvements in outcomes
Phase 3 - Whole Area Approaches

Total Place and Community Budgets

- Limited evidence
- Savings not outcome improvements

Image source: Iriss
Phase 3- Devolution

• Growth and City Deals – powers and (some) control over budgets in return for ‘step change’:
  o Public sector efficiency
  o Economic growth
  o Local leadership and accountability (mayoral model)

• Too soon to say but potential unintended effects on:
  o National Health Service
  o Universality
  o Barnett Formula – fiscal as well as functional devolution
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Spatial scale</th>
<th>ABIs</th>
<th>LSPs</th>
<th>Whole Area Approaches</th>
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<td><strong>Objectives</strong></td>
<td>Neighbourhood</td>
<td>Local Authority</td>
<td>City Region/County</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Regeneration</td>
<td>• ‘Strategic approach’</td>
<td>• Economic growth</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Community involvement</td>
<td>• ‘Joined up’ services</td>
<td>• Public service transformation</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Social inclusion</td>
<td>• Tackle ‘wicked issues’</td>
<td>• Local accountability</td>
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<td><strong>Policy narrative</strong></td>
<td>Community led solutions to tackle inequality</td>
<td>Collaboration between public services to improve outcomes</td>
<td>Devolve powers and budgets to close the gap between tax and spend</td>
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<td><strong>Actors</strong></td>
<td>Local authority</td>
<td>Local authority</td>
<td>Combined authorities</td>
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<td>• Local authority</td>
<td>• Police</td>
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<td>• Community</td>
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<td>• Third Sector</td>
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<td>• Business</td>
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<td><strong>Central government</strong></td>
<td>Short term funding with output monitoring</td>
<td>Fairly standard Local Area Agreements</td>
<td>Bespoke incremental deals with HMT</td>
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<td><strong>Examples</strong></td>
<td>New Deal for Communities (England)</td>
<td>Local Strategic Partnerships (England)</td>
<td>Total Place (England)</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Social Inclusion Partnerships (Scotland)</td>
<td>• Community Planning Partnerships (Scotland)</td>
<td>City and Growth Deals (England and Wales)</td>
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<td>• Communities First (Wales)</td>
<td>• Local Service Boards (Wales)</td>
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Evidence Problems

1. Difficult to capture long term outcomes
2. Hard to establish causal link – confounding factors
3. No control groups or counterfactuals - asymmetric deals and local conditions
4. Too important to (be seen to) fail
Evidence Highlights Importance of:

- Context and history - past partnerships and conflicts
- Collaboration – ‘travelling at the speed of trust’
- Complexity - joined up, cross-portfolio
- Local leadership
- Variable local capacity - soft steering by centre
- Evidence, innovation and learning
Thank you for listening

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