

Guidance Note 3: Identifying resources

What this guidance note does

This note provides advice on what can be included within the definition of "resources" and how to indicate resources on the plan. It is important because paragraph 42 of the statutory guidance states that the joint area plan must make clear what resources will be deployed in doing the things set out in the plan.

You will each have your own internal mechanisms for identifying resources and your plans will no doubt reflect a broad spectrum of priorities and actions. The purpose of this note is to act as a reminder of what is expected and not to advocate one process over another.

Defining resources

It is important to avoid a narrow definition of resources as equating purely to finance. Other resources include staff, buildings, equipment, volunteers and other facilities that can be interpreted as making a contribution to the delivery of the plan. In the spirit of the Act, people accessing services, their families and carers, should also be regarded as resources as should local communities.

You will be collecting a significant amount of information on resources that will not necessarily need to be included in your published plan. Although you will record all this information for the purposes of internal planning, what you will be expected to describe in the body of your report is a summary of the resources. For example, you do not need to include detailed budget breakdown. The resources need to be set out for each of the actions identified against your priorities.

There is a section in the template (2.10) where you can describe the information you feel the public and Ministers would need to know. If you wish to add more detail, you can do so in your annexes.

Strengths and asset based approaches

It is acknowledged that some resources are easier to identify than others and are also easier to articulate within the plan. For example, if a budget is allocated to a particular initiative this is likely to be clear and concrete whereas measuring how people and communities can be regarded as assets in given cases is more challenging. Nevertheless, you will need to ensure that

- consideration is given to these assets and;
- that this consideration is reflected in the plan.

You will have identified a number of these community assets in your population assessment which you will be able to reflect in this plan, for example informal transport or lift sharing networks or potential volunteering capacity. It is accepted that you will be less clear about these resources and some may require further mapping, as part of your plan. It is also accepted that data and intelligence on individual assets was not readily available for the first round of the population assessments.

Reflective questions

- Are you clear about what you should include under the heading "Resources"?
- Are you clear about the level of detail you need to provide in your plan?
- Have you recorded the resources in more detail for use in your internal planning?
- Have you taken a broad view of this reflecting an asset based approach in respect of people and communities?

