



# Towards Comprehensive Area Assessment



## Outline

- What is CAA?
- Scope of CAA
- Key differences from current arrangements
- Progress so far
- Key points from the November consultation paper
- Timetable





## Comprehensive Area Assessment - what will it do?

- CAA** is about places and people.
- CAA** will give people a snapshot of life in their local area each year.
- CAA** will help local services improve quality of life in their area.
- CAA** will provide an independent view of whether people are getting value for money from their local services.



## What is CAA?

- The new joint assessment framework for local services from 2009
- A catalyst for further improvement in the quality of life for citizens, the experience of people who use services and value for money for local people
- A source of independent information and assurance about local services for citizens, people who use services, tax payers and central government
- A mechanism for coordinating and rationalising inspection, improvement support and intervention and targeting them where they are most needed



## What is CAA? – key components


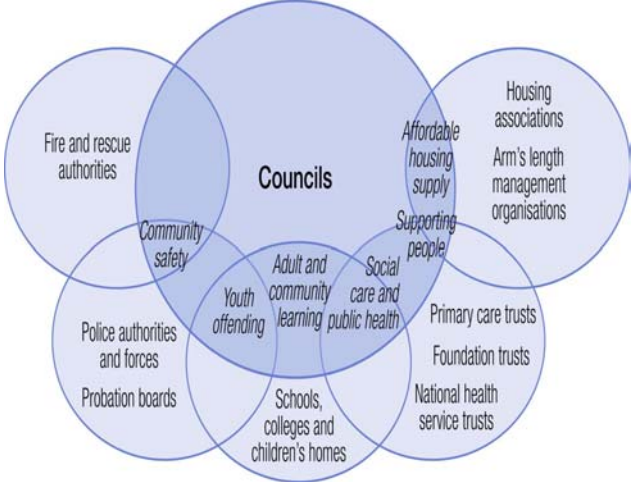

- For areas: annual area risk assessment (“prospects for the area and the quality of life for local people”) by inspectorates jointly; and performance against the new national indicator set
- For councils: annual use of resources judgement (by appointed auditor with input from other inspectorates) and annual direction of travel assessment (by inspectorates jointly)
- For FRAs: annual use of resources judgement (by appointed auditor *with input* from other inspectorates) and annual direction of travel assessment (by Audit Commission only)
- For NHS bodies (not Foundation Trusts), and police authorities: Use of resources judgements



## Scope of CAA

- The focus is on those outcomes which are the responsibility of the local authority either alone or working in partnership with other public, voluntary or private bodies
- This includes: health and well-being, community safety, sustainable communities, economic development, housing strategy, children’s services, etc.
- Other service-specific performance frameworks will continue, but will avoid unnecessary duplication with CAA (health and social care, police & community safety etc).




## Key differences from now

- Outcome focused, therefore area-based not just institutionally based
- More forward-looking
- Greater attention to local priorities
- Joint assessment judgements by inspectorates, not just an assembly of separate assessments
- Joint planning and targeting of inspection with fewer rolling programmes of inspection



Progress towards local area agreement targets

National indicator set

Views of users and other stakeholders

Self-assessment

Briefings from government office

Inspection findings

Area risk assessment

Public reporting

Triggered inspection of local services

Other support, challenge or intervention



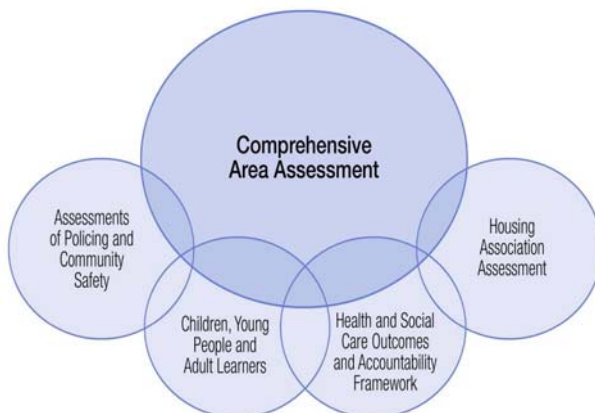
## Feedback from AC first discussion paper

- Support for the vision and objectives
- Need for greater join up across sectoral performance frameworks
- Need to demonstrate how inspectorates will work together and reduce the administrative impact on organisations of inspection activity
- Dawning realisation – we're going to be judged on things we're not directly responsible for
- Need to do this in a way that strengthens rather than undermines partnerships
- Don't throw the baby out with the bathwater



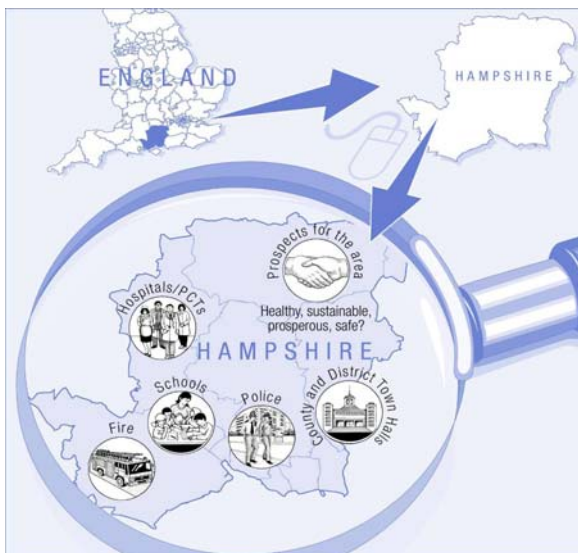
## Progress so far

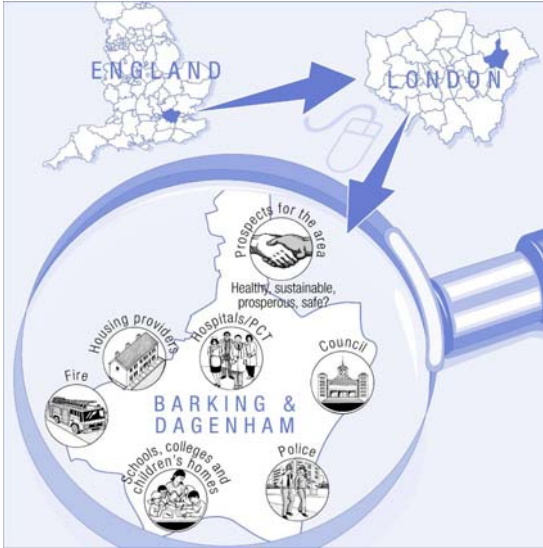
- A lot of joint inspectorate work on the consultation document AND methodologies
- Making good progress including initial discussions about action learning approach to development
- Agreement that DoT for councils should be a joint inspectorate judgement
- Greater clarity on the relationship between the four different elements of CAA and their linkages
- Consultation with a wide range of stakeholders



## Key points in November consultation paper

- Fit with other performance frameworks
- Relationship between CAA and Government Office role
- User focus
- CAA in two-tier counties and London
- Approach to scoring and reporting
- Operational approach between inspectorates to reduce administrative impact of inspection / assessment





## How we're working together





## Timetable

- Oct 2007      CSR and new national indicator set published
- Oct 2007      LGPIH Act received Royal Assent
- Nov 2007      Joint inspectorate consultation paper published
- Nov 2007      Action learning for CAA methodologies begins
- Feb 2008      CPA results for 2007 published
- Apr 2008      AC CAA Leads appointed
- Jun 2008      New-style LAAs agreed
- Summer 2008 Further joint consultation on CAA published
- Dec 2008      CA, JAR and APA ends
- Jan/Feb 2009 Final set of CPA results
- Oct/Nov 2009 First round of CAA reporting



## Questions

