

ANNEX A

Summary of new CAA proposals

The area assessment

This element asks three main questions:

1. How well do local priorities express community needs and aspirations?

The LAA and the Community Strategy will be used as a starting point to assess what the local priorities are and if and how these express community needs and aspirations. The KCP will have an important story to tell about how both the LAA and the Community Strategy were developed and the degree to which this was achieved in partnership. Partner organisations across all sectors will come under scrutiny for the degree to which they are engaged in these processes. An important element of CAA is that it will intend to use evidence already available to reduce the need for organisations to provide extra information.

Examples of evidence that could be used to answer this question include: feedback from public consultations, events and surveys delivered by the Council and other organisations; feedback from users of voluntary and community services; monitoring of community empowerment activities delivered by the Council and other organisations; and any activity that is being delivered or co-ordinated as part of the Council and partner organisations carrying out the new Duty to Involve. Inspectorates will also take into account how well the LAA and Community Strategy have embedded key issues and other strategies such as sustainability, the Local Development Framework and the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.

2. How well are the outcomes and improvements needed being delivered?

Performance reporting against LAA and Community Strategy indicators will also be used as an evidence base in this element, once again drawing attention to what all partners are doing to meet the priorities, aims and objectives outlined in both. The Audit Commission will also look at partners progress towards meeting key government priorities by assessing progress against the National Indicator Set.

The new Community Strategy Monitoring Plan will bring these elements together in one place which will simplify the process of reporting performance to government inspectorates, however this relies on sound performance reporting practices throughout partner organisations, including adherence to the Data Quality Protocol which the KCP recently signed up to.

3. What are the prospects for future improvements?

Evidence used to answer the first two questions will then be used to assess this third question. This element will be scored on the basis of likely prospects for future improvement in the local area. A red flag will be awarded to areas where future prospects are not being addressed by partners and performance is

poor. Evidence of this could be the partnership not meeting targets set against National Indicators or Community Strategy priorities, and aims and objectives in Community Strategies not looking to the future of the area.

A green flag will be awarded to those areas which demonstrate exceptional success and can evidence some innovation. Again, evidence for this could be taken from how well the partnership is delivering the LAA and Community Strategy, looking for examples of good practice and innovation that have been attained as a result.

The organisational assessment

The organisational assessment will apply to Councils and Fire and Rescue Services. PCTs and police authorities will be subject to separate performance frameworks but will also undergo a use of resources assessment as part of this. The overall organisational assessment will be scored and government are currently consulting on possible scoring models. This assessment consists of two elements:

1. A use of resources assessment against three themes: managing finances, governing business and managing resources.

This element of the assessment will ask Councils and Fire and Rescue Services 'key lines of enquiry' or KLOE's against these three themes. An auditor will make a scored assessment on the basis of evidence provided within each theme and the Audit Commission will bring these together to provide a single Use of Resources score. This will enable scores to be compared across public sector organisations.

2. A managing performance assessment.

This element of the assessment will consider how well Councils and Fire Services are able to:

- identify and deliver priority services, outcomes and improvements;
- provide the leadership, capacity and capability needed to deliver future improvements;
- contribute to improving wider community outcomes, including those set out in LAAs; and
- tackle inequality and improve outcomes for people in vulnerable circumstances.

This assessment will comment directly on the performance of key services within organisations. For the Council, an example would be how well services for children and young people or adult social care are being delivered. This element will also be linked to the area assessment to ensure that the two overall assessments support partner and individual organisations' accountability.

This will work in two ways: if a red or green flag in the area assessment is highlighting concerns or positive achievements this will be reported in more depth in the relevant organisational assessment and may affect the overall organisational assessment score. If any concerns or positive achievements arise from the organisational assessment which impact on the wider area,

these will be reported in the area assessment and may result in a red or green flag. From this, it is clear to see that both assessments within CAA will impact on the Council and partner organisations.

Reporting process

The joint inspectorates propose to publish both the area assessment and the organisational assessment annually in November.

For the area assessment, a summary report will be produced outlining key priorities, overall successes and challenges, and summary of prospects for future improvement. Where green or red flags have been allocated, a link to the relevant part of the organisational assessment will be provided. It is also proposed to publish a report showing performance against the National Indicator Set annually in November. The first round of CAA reports are expected in November 2009.

Government are proposing the following timetable leading up to November 2009:

- up to mid September 2009 – Joint inspectorates gather latest available information
- late September 2009 – Joint inspectorates draft reports including red and green flags
- October 2009 – Joint inspectorates discuss key issues with local partners, attain final quality assurance
- October/November 2009 – Draft report shared with local partners. Ten days to challenge if there is significant disagreement
- November 2009 – resolve any remaining challenges through formal process
- Late November 2009 – publish reports.

CAA Framework Proposals

<http://www.info4local.gov.uk/documents/consultations/907943>