



Comprehensive Area Assessment

A new way of assessing local public services
ESSP March 2009



Today we are going to cover...

- Reminder of why a new framework has been published;
- Update on the CAA framework – published 10 February;
- What happens next;
- What mechanisms for local engagement would be appropriate for East Sussex?



Why CAA?

- Big issues need joined up, coordinated action
- Need to concentrate on **outcomes** achieved for local communities
- Should reflect what matters most to local people
- But needs to stimulate continuous improvement
- And must continue to provide independent assurance that local bodies are effective and providing value for money

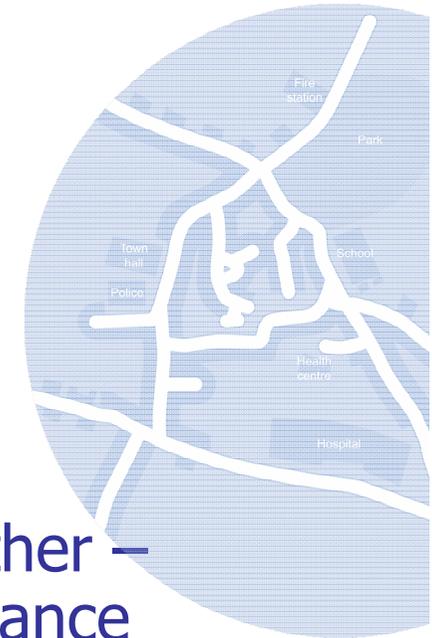




Headlines

Five key CAA facts:

1. It assesses the outcomes obtained for local people
2. It examines how public services work together – as well as individual organisational performance
3. It focuses on local, rather than national, priorities
4. It provides robust, but proportionate, scrutiny of local services
5. Public reporting is key

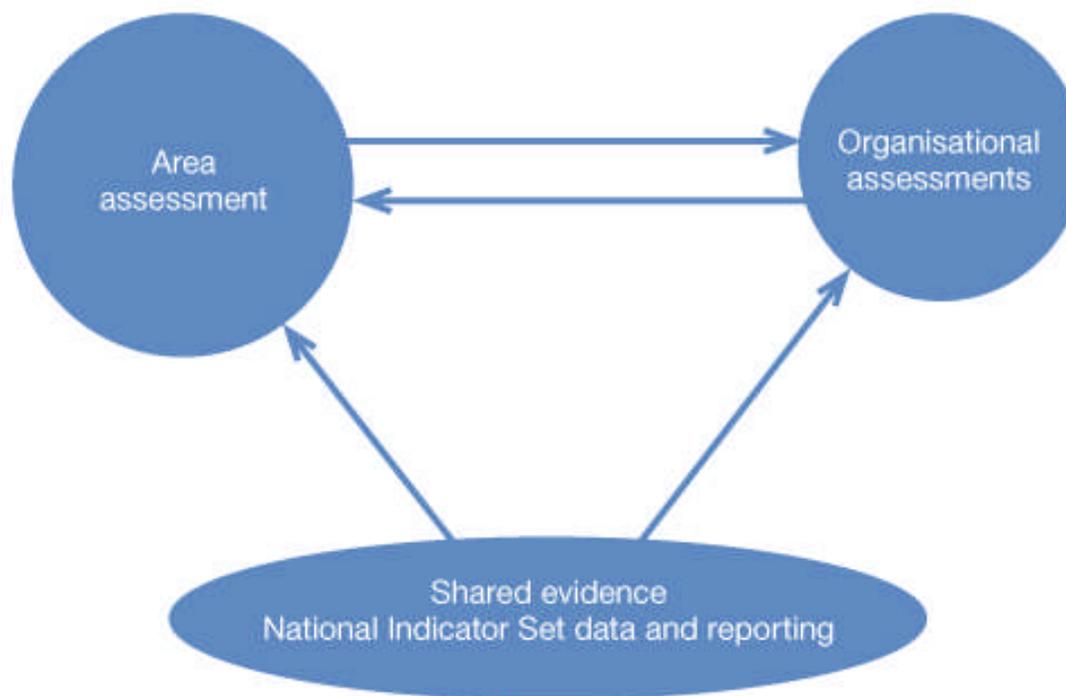




How will CAA work?

Interlocking elements:

The CAA framework





Area assessment

Future-focused, fixed on outcomes achieved against local priorities

- Answers three questions:
 1. How well do local priorities express community needs and aspirations?
 2. How well are the outcomes and improvements needed being delivered?
 - 3. What are the prospects for improvement?**
- These questions will be supported by an assessment of the sustainability of improvement, impact on inequality and on the most vulnerable, and the value for money of services
- Green  and red  'flags' will signal real innovation or major worries about future outcomes
- Judgement agreed across inspectorates





Evidence & working together

- CAA will consider:
 - Local performance management information, including that used for monitoring performance against LAAs and SCS
 - Performance against national indicators (National Indicator Set (NIS))
 - Evidence from inspection and audit
 - Information from government offices, other agencies etc.
 - Views of local people, the third sector and local businesses
- Providing the evidence for a shared judgment by inspectors working together





A scenario: tackling childhood obesity

- Child obesity is a major national target
- Included in 2/3 of LAAs
- Need to harness PE, leisure facilities, open spaces, healthy eating, healthy food
- But also: child poverty, breast feeding and mental health issues
- Area assessments will examine how these are handled locally





How will CAA work in areas with county and district councils?

- Services managed at district level have a major impact on outcomes and quality of life, so should feature strongly in area assessments
- For the first time, the organisational assessment counties and districts is on the same footing - proportionately
- Partnership arrangements are more complex – multiple partnerships and sustainable community strategies
- Working together to improve outcomes is key, whatever the geographical boundaries



Reporting CAA

- Annual public reporting (starting in late November)
- Consumer-oriented look and feel to CAA, with more accessible public name
- Website will be main communication tool, with plain English summaries of each assessment
- Green flags will help share good practice
- Users can drill-down for more detail
- LSPs and other local bodies will be given regular updates on emerging judgements
- Will introduce more innovation and interactivity from 2010





Website

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Assessing the quality of life where you live

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Your local area

Welcome to Comprehensive Area Assessment

Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA), brings together expertise and knowledge of seven inspection bodies to provide an independent and accurate view of the quality of local services across England.

CAA provides clear and impartial information on how local council, health, children's services, police and other services are performing — and how they compare with other parts of England.

Find out [more about CAA](#).

Your views matter

Your views are an important part of our assessments; your money that is being spent and your quality of life affected. You can give us [feedback on this site](#) or you

Click on the map or search for your area or postcode

Barshire Find

Demonstration site, indicative only

Barshire

Quality of life in Barshire - the area assessment in detail

Improvement activity

Search by theme

Best performers for this theme

How are your local services performing?

Performance Data

Compare with similar areas

Download the full report

Inspections and performance of other local services

Contact your local public services

How to get involved?

Search for another area

Barshire Find

Demonstration site, indicative only

Barshire, at a glance

This assessment sets out how your local public services are working together to tackle the major issues facing the people of Barshire. Where we use a red flag, this is to highlight where something more or different needs to happen to ensure that the most important challenges in Barshire are addressed. Where we use a green flag, this means that public bodies are achieving exceptional outcomes in priority areas, or something innovative, and that others can learn from.

Where different action is needed to deliver desired improvements	Local innovation and excellence in Barshire
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providing choice in social care Educational attainment Reducing unemployment and worklessness, and improving skills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving the environment and housing through energy efficient homes

[Find out about what's being done in response to these flags](#)

Barshire is a large county with a population of just over 1 million. Since 2005 the Barshire economy has been improving, though the recession is starting to bite. The county is split into three quite distinct areas, the main town and the relatively affluent built-up districts around it; deprived towns and villages in the south and east of the county still affected by the collapse of the coal industry; and the prosperous market towns and villages of the mainly rural north and west.

There are six districts in Barshire, but there are big differences in the quality of services provided by their district councils. Demands on public services are higher in the more deprived districts which can be found mainly in the south of the county. In these areas, school results and health are poorer, and there's more crime there. Numbers of older residents are growing across the county.

Barshire's public services have agreed the following five major challenges that they need to tackle:

- Supporting communities to be healthy and well cared-for;



So why will CAA be different?

- Focused on **local** priorities, as set out in sustainable community strategies and agreed in LAAs
- It does not rely on major inspections, like a corporate assessment or service inspection, but on building a **good understanding** over time
- Relies heavily on **readily available information and good practice**, rather than large, set-piece inspection, to minimise burden on local bodies
- It will focus on **outcomes** for local people, rather than examining **process**
- **Public reporting** and engaging local residents in our findings is a key aspiration
- Delivered by six inspectorates working **together**



But what's *really* different?

Strong focus on improvement, not process and compliance:

- People and places
- No longer focused just on single organisations – collective accountability
- Clear focus on outcomes and future prospects



Big culture shift – for all of us:

- Mature relationship - honesty, openness and ownership
- Adaptable and flexible – no need to keep reinventing – ‘evolution’
- Less ‘burden’, but more challenging



Next steps... for you Should you be 'preparing for CAA'?

Ask yourselves, and your partners . . .

- How well do we understand our communities?
- Is this understanding shared among our partnership?
- Is it reflected in our shared priorities?
- How well do we understand our performance and is this clearly focused on outcomes?
- How well do we understand the challenges ahead and are we working effectively together to meet these and improve priority outcomes?





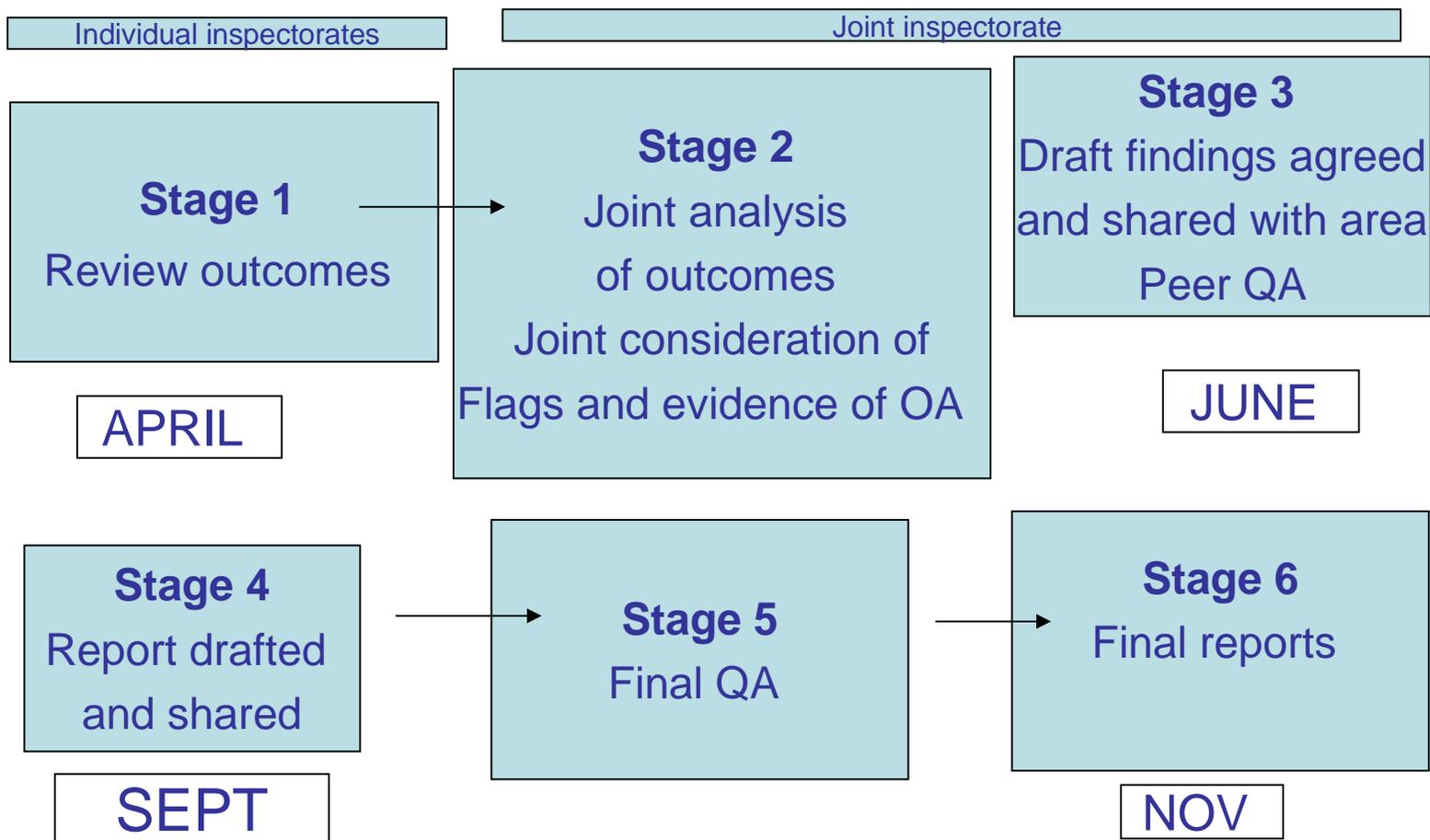
Next steps... for us

- Publish CAA framework 10 February 2009 ✓
- Publish our staff guidance end March 2009
- CAA 'goes live' April 2009
- First public reporting at end of November 2009
- National overview reporting February 2010





CAA Annual Cycle





Local engagement

WHAT	WHO	WHEN
Organisational Assessment	Councils FRAs PkF/ AC	April – Aug
UoR	Police PCTs Sx Probation	April – Aug
Area Assessment	ESSP incl DC LSPs and other partnerships where appropriate	April – Nov.



Local engagement with ESSP

- Draft findings shared at key points throughout year;
- Regular dialogue essential to ensure ‘no surprises’ approach;
- Who can we meet with on behalf of ESSP to inform our first stage analysis and share our initial thinking ?