

Oxford Local Strategic Partnership

15 October 2009

Comprehensive Area Assessment

Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) is the new way of assessing how public services are working together in local areas to improve the quality of life of residents. The Area Assessment is carried out by the major public service inspectorates (Audit Commission, the Care Quality Commission, HM Inspectorates of Constabulary, Prisons and Probation and Ofsted).

Although not a requirement, we produced a self assessment for Oxfordshire setting out what our priorities are, what we have achieved so far and what further work we need to do. This was based on our priorities as set out in Oxfordshire 2030, the county's sustainable community strategy. The self assessment was coordinated by the County Council, but the district councils, the PCT and Thames Valley Police all contributed.

The inspectorates gave their initial comments at the meeting of the Public Service Board in July 2009. An early draft of their report was received in September and there was an opportunity for all of the partners who had contributed to the self assessment to comment on that draft. A revised report is due with us on 16 October. The final results will be published on 10 December, along with the rest of England on the Audit Commission's CAA website (called One Place).

The area assessment will not be scored but green and red 'flags' will be used to reflect excellent and poor performance. The first draft report did not include final commentary from Ofsted and CQC so it is not yet possible to advise which of the flags we may receive, but we are hopeful that there will not be any red flags.

CAA also includes organisational assessments of each local authority. These are scored (1-4) with a descriptor (performing excellently, well, adequately or poorly). These reports will be published on the same timetable as the Area Assessment.

Tracy Luck
Head of Strategy
Oxfordshire County Council