



Joined up assessment for joined up local services

Camden LSP Business Meeting – 9th October



Comprehensive Area Assessment



Why CAA?

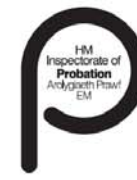
- Reflect the new central-local relationship (National Indicator Set, Local Area Agreements, Sustainable Community Strategies etc.)
- Reinforce local partners' accountability for contributing to improved outcomes
- Build on better performance of local services and increasing capacity for sector self-improvement
- Address the apparent gap between assessed performance and citizen perceptions
- More coordinated and targeted inspection needed

Joined up assessment for joined up local services



Key differences from existing assessments

- “How well are people served by their local public services?”, not just “How good is the organisation”
- Focus on outcomes, not just on organisations
- More attention to local priorities, not one-size fits all
- Forward looking assessment, not just past performance
- More self-driven improvement; less compliance-focused and rule-driven
- More reliance on self-evaluation and sector self-support
- Not an inspection ‘event’ but dialogue
- Better co-ordinated, risk-based inspection



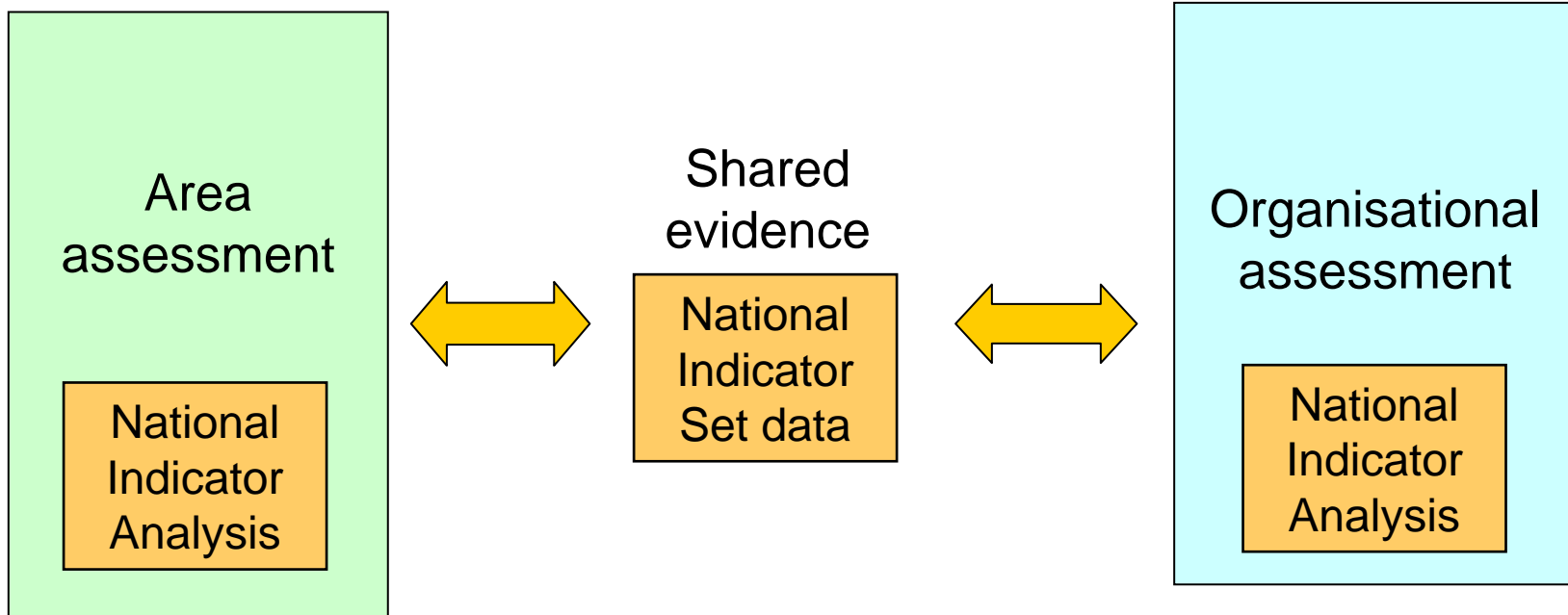
An evolving assessment

CAA will:

- evolve and mature
- tell a story of the place over time
- take account of recent local service assessments such as annual health checks, annual performance assessments and CPA
- make use of improving data as it becomes available
- adapt to major developments such as national or local organisational changes



Our current proposals



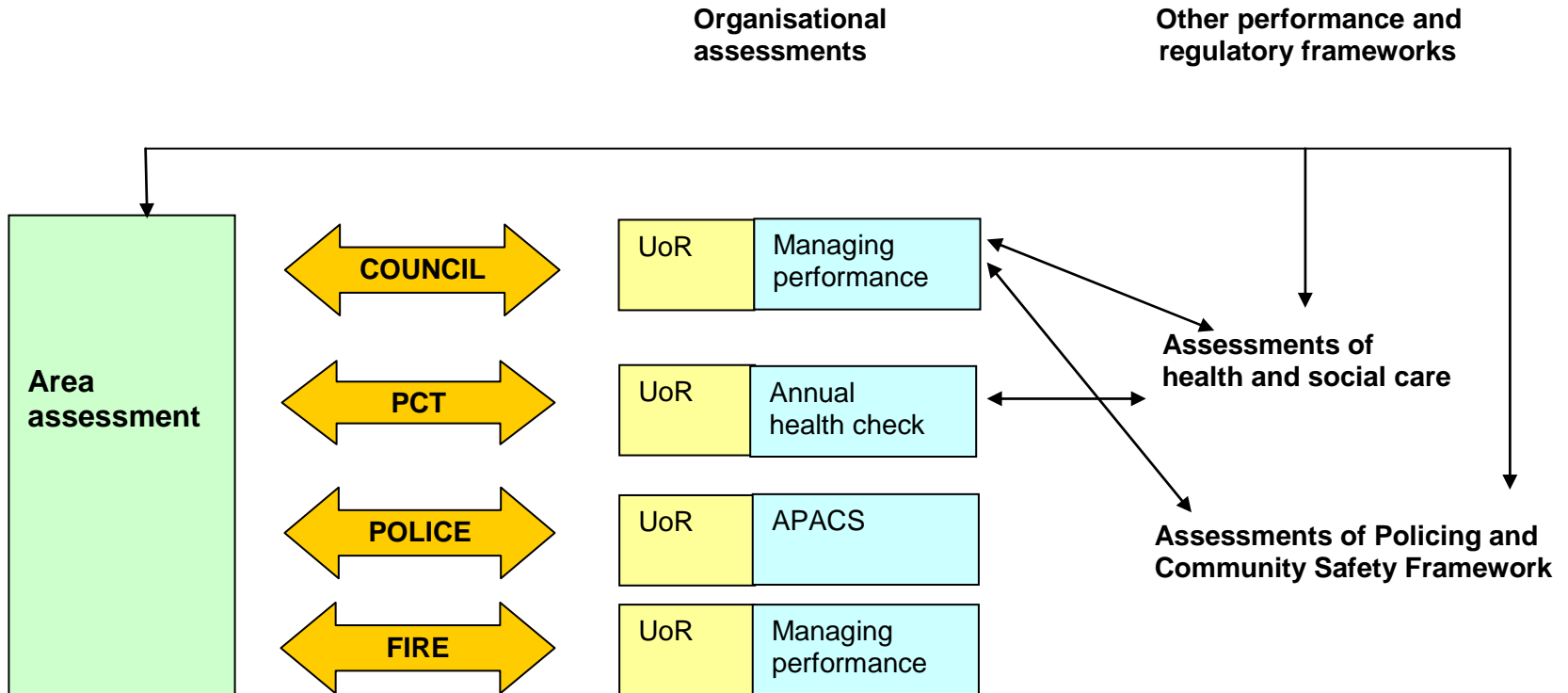


How we will carry out CAA

- Better ways of gathering evidence and understanding
- Shared evidence and analysis across the inspectorates
- Audit Commission CAA Leads covering all LAA areas will co-ordinate local assessments and liaise with Government Offices
- Increased emphasis on self-evaluation through local performance management
- Increased account of service user, resident and third sector views
- Clear cross-referencing between area and organisational assessments



How CAA will align with other performance frameworks



** Other local organisations such as housing associations and probation boards are also subject to inspection frameworks but do not receive use of resources assessments.



Area assessment – three key questions

- How well do local priorities express community needs and aspirations?
- How well are the outcomes and improvements needed being delivered?
- What are the prospects for future improvement?

Focus on priority outcomes targeted within Local Area Agreements and Sustainable Community Strategies



Outcome focus (influenced by priorities)

- How safe is this area?
- How healthy and well supported are people?
- How well kept is the area?
- How environmentally sustainable is the area?
- How strong is the local economy?
- How strong and cohesive are local communities?
- How well is inequality being addressed?
- How well is housing need met?
- How well are families supported?
- How good is the well-being of children and young people?



Area assessment

- There will not be an overall score
- A 'red flag' will indicate significant concerns about outcomes, performance or future prospects that are not being adequately addressed. Further or different action is needed to secure sustained improvement
- A 'green flag' will indicate innovative or exceptional success that other may learn from
- 'Red flags' will be able to be formally challenged but the absence of 'green flags' will not
- Where possible we will link area assessment 'flags' to individual organisational assessments



Reporting CAA

- Annual reporting in the autumn, but evidence will be (and judgments may be in exceptional circumstances) updated more frequently
- **Area assessment:** Narrative, with 'red' and 'green' flags where relevant
- **Assessments for each public body:** with links to assessments of councils, PCTs, schools, police, fire...
- Clickable maps, postcode entry web version
- Will include reporting of National Indicator Set, allowing tailored comparisons
- National and themed reports to share learning



So what will inspectorates be looking for?

- High levels of engagement with and knowledge and understanding of your communities
- Ambitious shared vision for your place and communities
- Productive relationships across public, private and third sectors
- Self-awareness & effective performance management across organisations and partnerships
- Innovation and well-managed risk-taking, and
- **Sustainable improvements in citizen satisfaction, priority outcomes and value for money**



Timeline

- 29 July – published consultation document
- Monday 20 October – consultation closes
- October - November – analyse consultation responses and learning from trial sites
- Early 2009 – publish final CAA framework
- February 2009 – publish final council CPA results
- November 2009 – publish first CAA results