

## WHAT CAA MEANS FOR HEALTH SERVICES

---

CAA requires a new way of monitoring and reporting performance. This approach requires the Audit Commission, the Commission for Social Care Inspection, Healthcare Commission, HM Inspectorate of Constabulary, HM Inspectorate of Prisons, HM Inspectorate of Probation and Ofsted to work together. Each of these inspectorates was commissioned by their respective Ministers to collectively develop CAA.

From April 2009 the Care Quality Commission will replace the Healthcare Commission, the Commission for Social Care Inspection and the Mental Health Act Commission and will be a key partner on health and social care issues. The Care Quality Commission will complete the 2008/09 assessments started by these bodies.

For the **area assessment** the inspectorates will draw on a range of sources of evidence, including the National Indicator Set which has over 40 indicators that are either specifically badged as 'health' indicators or are of direct relevance to health and will carry out additional investigation where analysis shows this is needed. This could involve any of the local partners e.g. Mental Health Trusts, Acute Trusts and PCTs. Input to the area assessment evidence files will also be drawn from existing information held by the Healthcare Commission.

PCTs are already familiar with being assessed on their use of resources through the Auditors Local Evaluation (ALE). From 2008/09, there will be an important change to this assessment. The new assessment will have only three themes: managing finance, governing the business and managing resources. This will enable the Audit Commission to use the same framework for its assessments of all the bodies included within the CAA.

The **organisational assessments** of PCTs and NHS trusts (currently known as the Annual Health Check), planned for 2008/9 by the Healthcare Commission and to be published by the Care Quality Commission, will provide assessments of the quality of services provided and, for PCTs, the quality of commissioning, and will incorporate the results of auditors' assessments of the use of resources. The Healthcare Commission will base its assessment of the quality of financial management on the Audit Commission's judgements in the 'managing finances' theme. It will also use evidence from the remaining two themes for its standards-based assessment wherever possible.

### What does it mean for PCTs?

CAA provides a mechanism to ensure that the needs of the local population are met through agencies working closely together to deliver improved outcomes. There are a significant number of health issues that cannot be addressed by PCTs working alone and there are population groups, such as

children and young people, or older people, whose outcomes will not be improved unless PCTs and their partners work jointly. CAA will act as a catalyst for public bodies to deliver better health and well-being outcomes for local people and better value for public money.

Further details about the CAA can be found at:

- Audit Commission: <http://www.audit-commission.gov.uk/caa/>

- NHS:

[http://www.nhscentreforinvolvement.nhs.uk/docs/caa\\_roadshow\\_200719%5B1%5D.pdf](http://www.nhscentreforinvolvement.nhs.uk/docs/caa_roadshow_200719%5B1%5D.pdf)