

WHAT CAA MEANS FOR HOUSING PROVIDERS

CAA 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, including the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, 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.

Within the **area assessment** the Audit Commission have set a broad question on housing - *how well is housing need being met?* In answering this question the Audit Commission will draw on a range of sources of evidence including the National Indicator Set which includes a number of indicators that are relevant to housing agencies e.g. Net Additional Homes (NI 154), the Increase in the Number of Affordable Homes (NI 155) or the number of vulnerable people achieving independent living (NI 141). The Audit Commission will carry out additional investigation only where the analysis of this evidence shows this is needed. This could involve some interaction with local partners, including housing providers.

'Registered providers' of housing services will need to establish a relationship with the new regulator for affordable housing - the Tenant Services Authority (TSA). Providers of housing services will also need to develop a good working relationship with the Homes and Community Agency (HCA) which is the key funding agency for affordable housing and regeneration.

Use of resources assessments will not apply to housing associations as private sector bodies, as this is the responsibility of the TSA. As the new regulatory framework for housing providers is established by the TSA, the Audit Commission will look to include any organisational assessment of housing providers as part of the area reporting arrangements.

Local performance of housing providers will be reported as part of CAA. At present, information that local authorities with housing stock provide to Communities and Local Government will be used. However, the TSA will be establishing new reporting arrangements for housing providers which will be used in future assessments.

What does it mean for housing providers?

CAA provides a mechanism to ensure that the needs of the local population are met through agencies working seamlessly together to deliver improved outcomes. There are a significant number of housing issues that cannot be addressed by housing providers working alone. CAA will act as a catalyst for public services to deliver better housing outcomes for local people and better

value for public money, as well as to contribute to an improved quality of life and well-being for the communities they serve.

Further details about the CAA can be found at the Audit Commission website:

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