

Comprehensive Area Assessment

February 2009

Policy & Performance

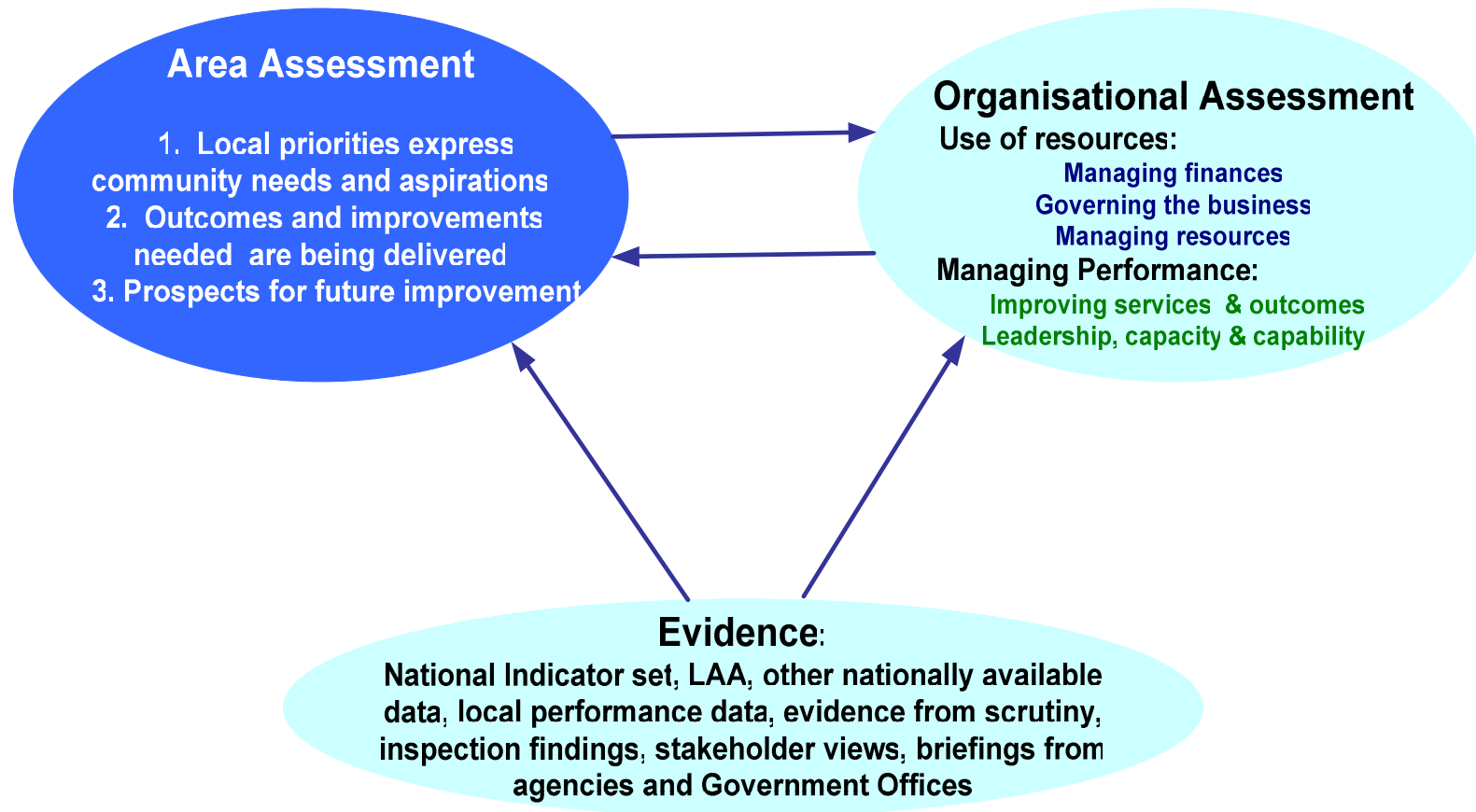
Comprehensive Area Assessment

An independent assessment of how well people are being served by local public services

Two elements which will inform each other:

- **Area assessment** – will provide a view on the short, medium and long term prospects for better outcomes for local people
- **Organisational assessment** – will assess the performance and value for money provided by individual public bodies serving the area

The Comprehensive Area Assessment



Area Assessment

Will consider the following for Haringey:

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 future improvements?

(Q1). How well do local priorities express community needs and aspirations?

Key themes:

- how well councils and partners know and engage their communities and understand the needs of marginalised groups
- have communities been involved in identifying priorities
- have communities been involved in assessing whether priorities are delivered
- are partners effective in co-ordinating community engagement and communicating its impact on their decisions

(Q2) How well are the outcomes and improvements needed being delivered?

Inspectors will be looking for answers to:

- How safe is the area?
- How healthy and well supported are people?
- How well is adult social care meeting people's needs and choices?
- How well kept is the area?
- How environmentally sustainable is the area?
- How strong is the local economy?
- How strong and cohesive are local economies?
- How well is housing need met?
- How well are families supported?
- How good is the well being of children and young people?

(Q3). What are the prospects for future improvements

Inspectorates will look for answers to:

- Do local partners have the capacity and capability to deliver their ambitions, strategies and plans?
- Are local partners taking adequate action to manage, mitigate or address any risks?
- Are local partners engaged in any exceptional innovative practice?
- How well improvement planning is being implemented –are key objectives and milestones being achieved and do local partners have robust plans for improving?

Reporting the Area Assessment

- Area Assessment is not scored – narrative report published annually
- First report to be published November 2009



to indicate significant concerns about future improvement. There will be a challenge procedure for red flags



to highlight exceptional performance or improvement

Non-awarding of green flags will not be able to be challenged.

Underpinning themes

- Sustainability – building a strong, healthy and just society
- Understanding and tackling inequality, disadvantage and discrimination – will include reducing child poverty
- People whose circumstances make them vulnerable (are their needs being met now and in the future)
- Value for money – use of resources in achieving outcomes for the area

Organisational Assessment

	Theme	Key lines of enquiry
Use of resources	Managing finances	How effectively does the organisation manage its finances to deliver value for money?
	Governing the business	How well does the organisation govern itself and commission services that provide value for money and deliver better outcomes for local people?
	Managing resources	How well does the organisation manage its people, natural resources and physical assets, to meet current and future needs and deliver value for money?
Managing performance	Managing performance	<p>How well is the organisation delivering its priority services, outcomes and improvements that are important to local people?</p> <p>Does the organisation have the leadership, capacity and capability it needs to deliver future improvements?</p>

Scoring the Organisational Assessment

- Organisational Assessment Performance Management score will be agreed jointly by Audit Commission, Ofsted & Care Quality Commission (CQC)
- Ofsted and CQC will also publish more detailed finding separately
- There will be no use of rules to govern how an Ofsted or CQC grade will impact on the overall managing performance score
- Organisational Assessment will be scored for 1 – 4 where:
 - 1 – performs poorly
 - 2 – performs adequately
 - 3 – performs well
 - 4 - performs excellently

Inspections

- CAA not a once-a-year activity – unlike CPA
- information will be gathered and reviewed throughout the year (quarterly)
- reports published in late November
- linked graded assessments of children's services and of adult social care published at the same time

Timelines

Not 'once a year activity' – evidence will be gathered and updated throughout the year with quarterly updates

Up to mid September	Joint inspectorate gathering latest available information including educational attainment
Late September	Joint inspectorate drafts reports, including red and green flags
October	Key issues discussed with local partners. Joint inspectorate undertake final quality assurance
October/November	Draft report shared with partners. Ten days to challenge area assessment and organisational assessment
November	Resolve any challenges through formal process
Late November	Publish reports