

Haringey's Corporate Assessment 2006

Haringey Council and its partners have been working hard to improve the quality of life for all its residents and to make Haringey one of the best places to live, work, study and do business.

The Audit Commission (an independent body which regulates local government) are coming to inspect the council between the 12 and the 23 of June and will determine what improvements we are making to the lives of people in Haringey.

Why does the inspection matter?

The inspection looks at the whole borough and how effectively agencies work together to ensure that good quality services are available in Haringey.

A positive result will be good for everyone. It will:

- Reflect the importance the council places on residents views
- Lead to less intervention and fewer inspections
- Help to attract and retain the best staff
- Provide the scope for innovation
- Establish a good reputation for the council among funders and with central government

Over the last 3 years Haringey council has made good progress and this has been reflected in the Comprehensive Performance Assessment judgements. Haringey improved from 'weak' in 2003, to 'fair' in 2004 and in December 2005 scored 'good'.

Haringey wants to continue this improvement for residents and is aiming to score a three in the forthcoming Corporate Assessment.

What is a corporate assessment?

The Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) is the framework that the Audit Commission use to judge how well councils perform. In December each year council's are scored on their performance across services and on how well we use the resources available to the council. The other part of the CPA is the Corporate Assessment. This is carried out once every three years and looks at the capacity of the council to carry out its objectives, working with partners and the local community.

What will the corporate assessment look at?

The inspection will look at how well the council is carrying out its priorities for the community, working together with partners. In particular this includes:

- Community leadership
- Partnership working
- Understanding and responding to the needs of all the community
- Ability to deliver real outcomes on local and national priorities
- Delivering value for money

Inspectors will also be looking at achievements in key areas of partnership working, in particular:

- Safer and stronger communities
- Sustainable communities and transport
- Healthier communities
- Older people
- Children and young people

Inspectors will carry out a survey of all the council's partners in the week of the 8 May and will interview key partners during the first inspection week beginning the 12 June. They will use these views to inform their judgement.

The Joint Area Review

The children and young peoples theme will be assessed by a Joint Area Review (JAR). Inspectors will look at what life is like for children and young people in Haringey, evaluating the effectiveness of services in improving their lives.

The JAR is a new form of inspection, bringing together ten different inspection regimes, including Ofsted and the Commission for Social Care Inspection. It covers all publicly funded services for children and young people and will take place at the same time as the Corporate Assessment.

The Youth Offending Service is also being inspected and this judgement will affect the overall score for the JAR.

Keeping you informed

We shall issue regular briefings about the Corporate Assessment. Each subsequent newsletter will focus on one of the key themes so that you will be aware of the issues.

Inspectors will speak to people at all levels of the council and in partner agencies, so it is important that everyone is aware of the issues and the performance of the council.

More information

If you would like more information or have any queries contact Eve Pelekanos or Christine Piscina in the Improvement, Performance and Scrutiny Team on 020 8489 2508 or 020 489 2516

E mail eve.pelekanos@haringey.gov.uk
christine.piscina@haringey.gov.uk