



AGENDA ITEM 10

MEETING

**Haringey Strategic Partnership
27 March 2006**

TITLE

CPA and JOINT AREA REVIEW ARRANGEMENTS

SUMMARY

This paper updates the HSP on arrangements for the Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) and the Joint Area Review (JAR) due to take place in June 2006.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the HSP notes the requirements and arrangements for the CPA and the JAR which will both assess the performance of the Council during the same site visit to be held 12-23 June 2006.

LEAD OFFICER(S)

David Hennings, Assistant Chief Executive (Strategy) and Sharon Shoesmith, Director of the Children's Service, Haringey Council

Introduction

1. The Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) is the framework that the Audit Commission use to judge how well councils perform. In December each year councils are scored on their performance across services and on how well they use the resources available to them. A further 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. This will take place in June, this year.

2. Joint Area Reviews (JAR) were established as part of the new inspection regime under the Children Act 2004. Over a three year cycle starting in September 2005 all local authority districts will be subject to a JAR. A large number of inspectorates are involved in the development and administration of JARs, led by Ofsted.
3. In Haringey, the Comprehensive Performance Assessment of the Council will take place simultaneously with the JAR, as will the inspection of the Youth Service. The Youth Offending Service is being inspected in April.

The purpose of CPA

4. The CPA inspection looks at the whole borough and how effectively agencies work together to ensure that good quality public services are available in Haringey. A positive result will be good for everyone. It will:
 - 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
 - Reflect the importance the council places on resident's views
 - Lead to less intervention and fewer inspections

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.

The purpose of the JAR

5. JARs are intended to describe the outcomes achieved by children and young people growing up in the area. They should evaluate the way all local services, taken together, contribute to their well-being and focus on the extent to which children and young people meet the 5 outcomes from the Children Act:
 - being healthy
 - staying safe
 - enjoying and achieving
 - making a positive contribution
 - achieving economic well-being
6. The JAR is organised around 36 key judgements and 4 judgement areas related to service management. The fieldwork will focus on the 10 judgements that the inspectors believe are most significant for the local area. Evidence from the last years Annual Performance Assessment (APA) and other local inspections will have been used to make this selection.

Arrangements for the CPA / JAR

7. The CPA 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
8. 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
9. 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.
10. The inspectorate teams for Haringey are led by:
- Mary Ryan (Ofsted)
Neil Penswich (CSCI)
Jackie Barry Pursell (AC – lead for CPA)
11. The latest timetable we have from the inspectorates is as follows:

3 April	meeting with the Inspectors plus opportunity for CYPSP Partners to meet the inspectors at 6.30 pm;
14 April	final date for submission of all documents,
8 May	final date for submission of JAR Self-assessment;
22 May to 26 May	inspectors analysis week;
12 June to 23 June	inspection fortnight, when the onsite field work will take place
26 July	draft report to Council.

12. There are various key elements to both the CPA and JAR. The following will impact directly on partners to a greater or lesser extent. They are:

Interviews and focus groups

Interviews will involve, for CPA, and for the JAR all partners represented on the CYPSP, the Leader and Executive Member of the Council, staff from the Children's Service, together with focus groups of frontline staff, heads, college principals, parents, carers and young people themselves.

Self-assessment

Two separate self assessments for both the CPA and the JAR need to be prepared though these obviously need to relate and to be able to be cross referenced.

Neighbourhood study

A Neighbourhood Study for the JAR focuses on getting first hand evidence from children, young people and their families together with front-line staff. It enables inspectors to assess how local services contribute to, and work together, to improve outcomes for children and young people. We have been asked to identify three neighbourhoods and are proposing to concentrate on Noel Park, Broadwater Farm Estate and West Green, to include the Bruce Grove youth provision. The final selection will be made with regard to the 10 key judgements the inspectors have selected and confirmed at the set-up meeting on April 3rd. The Council will be required to work with partners to provide more detailed information at the analysis stage. A draft programme of meetings and visits will be drawn up for discussion at the set-up meeting.

Case files/tracking

The purpose of case tracking is twofold. Firstly to assess the effectiveness of referral, assessment, planning and review processes. Secondly to assess the effectiveness of interagency working. 100 cases must be provided which include 10 referred to the Children's Service by another professional agency or department who do not meet the threshold criteria for services. The names and details of the children will be confidential at all times. 10 of these cases will be identified for follow up at the set-up meeting on April 3rd. Inspectors will meet with the children and young people themselves and their parents/carers, and separately with lead professionals and their line managers during the first week of the field work. Issues will be followed up during interviews the following week.

13. Other parts of the JAR are.
 - The Audit Commission's school survey
 - A data set of over 250 indicators covering 9 inspectorates
 - The TELLUS survey of 600 children and young people, a web based survey that is being done now via the schools.
 - A list of documents the Council must supply by mid April.

Further Information

14. Regular briefings about the CPA and JAR will be issued. Inspectors will speak to people at all levels in the council and in partner agencies, so it is important that everyone is aware of the issues and their relevance to the performance of the council. If you would like more information or have any queries contact Eve Pelekanos or Christine Piscina in the Improvement, Performance and Scrutiny Team for the CPA and Patricia Walker in the Children's Service for the JAR.

Recommendations

15. That the HSP notes the requirements and arrangements for the CPA and the JAR and that they will take place at the same time.