

CAA and rural delivery

An everyday story of country folk?

**Joanne McDonough &
Michael Newbury**

Area Assessment Leads
Humberside and North Yorkshire and York



We're going to talk about ...

- The CAA framework ...
- ... what it might mean for rural issues ...
- ... and what happens next

CAA and rural delivery

The CAA framework



Why CAA?

We believe that:

- People deserve clear and impartial information about how well they are being served by their local public services ...
- ... how that compares with elsewhere ...
- ... what the prospects are for the improvement of quality of life in their area.

This information will help people:

- ... hold elected representatives and those providing local public services to account for their performance and use of public money ...
- ... it will help people make informed choices and influence local decisions.

What will CAA do?

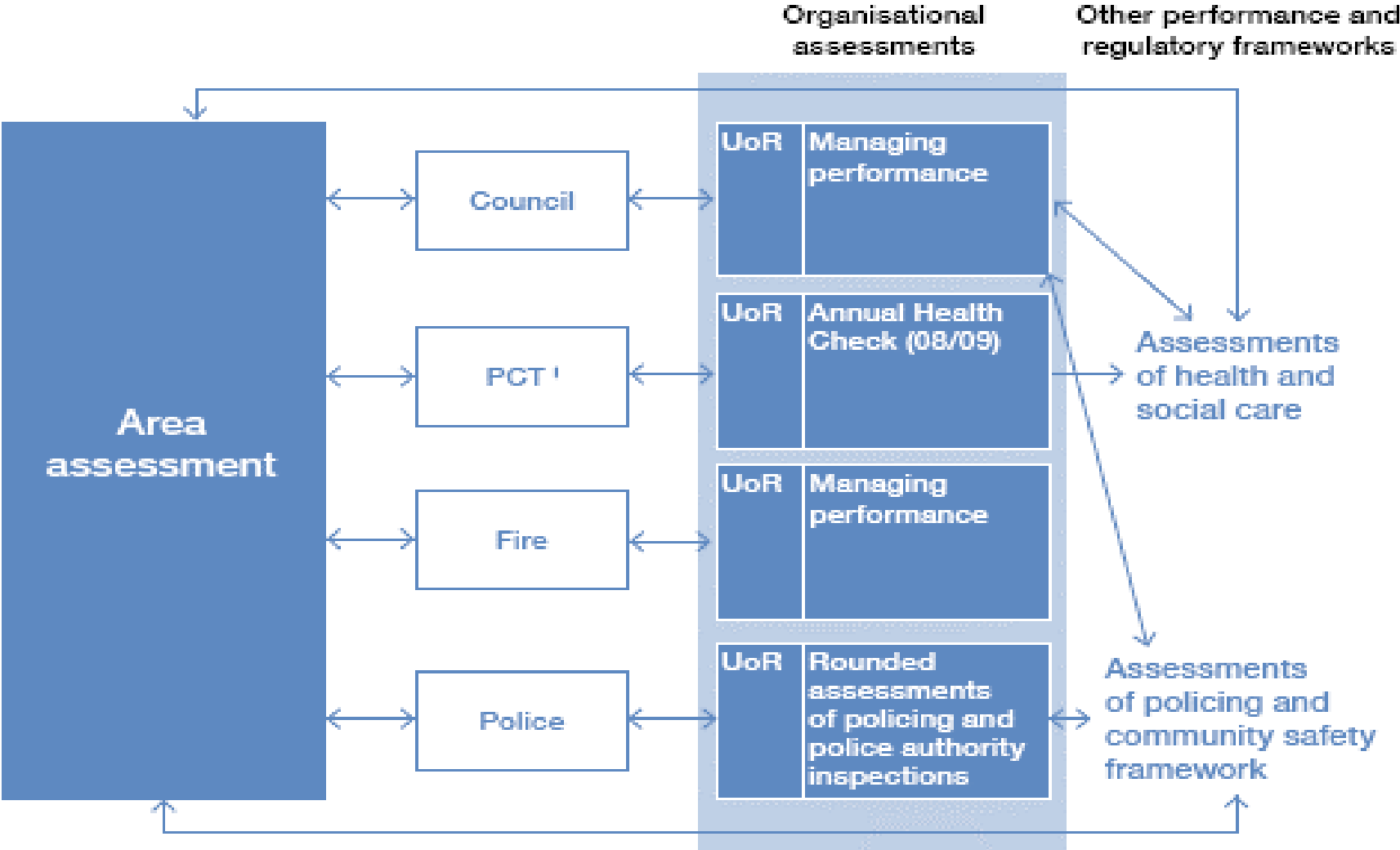
CAA will provide:

- a catalyst for improvement: better local outcomes, more effective partnership working, more responsive services and better value for money ...
- independent assurance for citizens, service users and taxpayers ...
- an independent evidence base for central government on progress with national priorities and improving local services ...
- a means of focusing, rationalising and coordinating inspection.

CAA in outline

- CAA provides an independent assessment of how well people are being served by their local public services ...
- ... by focussing on how well these services, working together and with a range of other bodies including town and parish, are achieving improvement and progressing towards long-term goals ...
- ... through a new area assessment in which the inspectorates will provide their joint view on the short, medium and long-term prospects for better results for local people ...
- ... which will be linked to organisational assessments of the performance and value for money provided by individual public bodies serving the area carried out by the relevant inspectorates.

Final overview



What questions do we want to answer?

- How well do local priorities express community needs and aspirations?
- How well are outcomes and improvements needed being delivered?
- What are the prospects for future improvement?

But we are also interested in ...

Sustainability

- Not just long term social and economic benefit ...
- ... but also respecting environmental limits ...
- ... and building a strong, healthy and just society.

But we are also interested in ...

Inequality

- Is effort targeted where improvement is most needed to tackle inequalities within and between communities?
- Are the needs of people who are disadvantaged or discriminated against through
 - age, disability, race, gender or trans-gender, religion or belief, and sexual orientation being addressed
 - how well do local partners know and understand the nature and extent
 - of inequality and disadvantage within their communities and how effectively they are working to reduce or eliminate discrimination.

But we are also interested in ...

People whose circumstances make them vulnerable -

- because of their dependence on public services, (for example, because of illness, the need for care or support, or homelessness)
- because they are at risk of harm (for example, linked to substance abuse)
- because they are marginalised or discriminated against in society.

Some groups are at very high risk –

- people who need or are leaving care services, people with learning disabilities
- people receiving mental health services
- people who are living in isolation.

But we are also interested in ...

Value for money is at the heart of our work as regulators -

- it's important to all of us who pay for public services
- increasing pressure on public spending means this will remain a high priority everywhere
- through CAA we can take a broader view across organisations
- and where there are significant issues arising from this that relate to the wider use of resources to improve outcomes in an area, we will report on these in the area assessment.

CAA and rural delivery

What might it mean for rural issues



CAA and rural issues

We recognise that ...

- ... what matters locally varies from place to place ...
- ... and local partnerships have ...
 - sustainable community strategies setting out local challenges and agreed priorities for their areas and how they plan to achieve sustainable development ...
 - ... as well as new local area agreements (LAAs) setting out improvement targets up to March 2011 for those issues that are most important locally and important to government are now in place ...
 - ... and longer term goals are also set out in local development frameworks ...
- ... so in CAA we will consider progress towards achieving local priorities, in relation to these different timescales.

Rural delivery and the CAA – Yorkshire and Humber

Your 10 rural priorities have immediate resonance for the CAA –

- rural business development
- employment, education and skills training
- market towns
- sustainable tourism
- access to services
- rural transport
- rural housing
- rural communities
- the natural environment
- promoting a ‘functional landscape’.

Rural delivery and the CAA – your agenda for action

Delivery of your agenda for action will –

- have a direct relationship to CAA ...
- ... because these priorities are important to the quality of life of rural communities and to our first and second judgements in CAA ...
- ... and success in their delivery will be important evidence for our third judgement about future prospects.

Rural delivery and the CAA – an open evidence book

We will consider a wide range of evidence in forming our judgements -

- LAAs, sustainable community strategies and any other locally agreed targets;
- the National Indicator Set and other nationally available data;
- findings from inspection, regulation and audit, including relevant evidence from other performance frameworks;
- local performance management information used to monitor local priorities including any self evaluations and evidence from scrutiny;
- briefings or evidence from other agencies including the government offices in the regions, strategic health authorities, the Tenant Services Authority, the Homes and Communities Agency, regional development agencies and rural affairs forums
- the views of people who use services including residents, third sector organisations and local businesses in the area.

CAA and rural delivery

What next?



The CAA timeline in year 1

- Where are we now?
 - evidence gathering and analysis
 - developing our knowledge and understanding of the areas we serve.
- Where next?
 - By mid year we'll have an emerging picture of the issues in our areas and will be sharing this with LSPs.
- What will be reported and when?
 - Individual organisational assessments and the overall area assessment will be reported on line and through other means and
 - this will happen at the end of November
- Then?
 - More work by inspectorates and partnerships to follow up on the issues identified and more reporting if needed.

Contacts – the Yorkshire and Humber Area Assessment Leads

<p>Humberside: Joanne McDonough 0844 798 7130 j-mcdonough@audit-commission.gov.uk</p>	<p>North Yorkshire and York: Michael Newbury 0844 798 7130 m-newbury@audit-commission.gov.uk</p>
<p>South Yorkshire: John Casey 0844 798 7130 j-casey@audit-commission.gov.uk</p>	<p>West Yorkshire: Stephen Gregg 0844 798 7130 s-gregg@audit-commission.gov.uk</p>