



# Wirral Area Assessment Audit Commission Update May 2009



## Comprehensive Area Assessment

A new way of assessing local public services



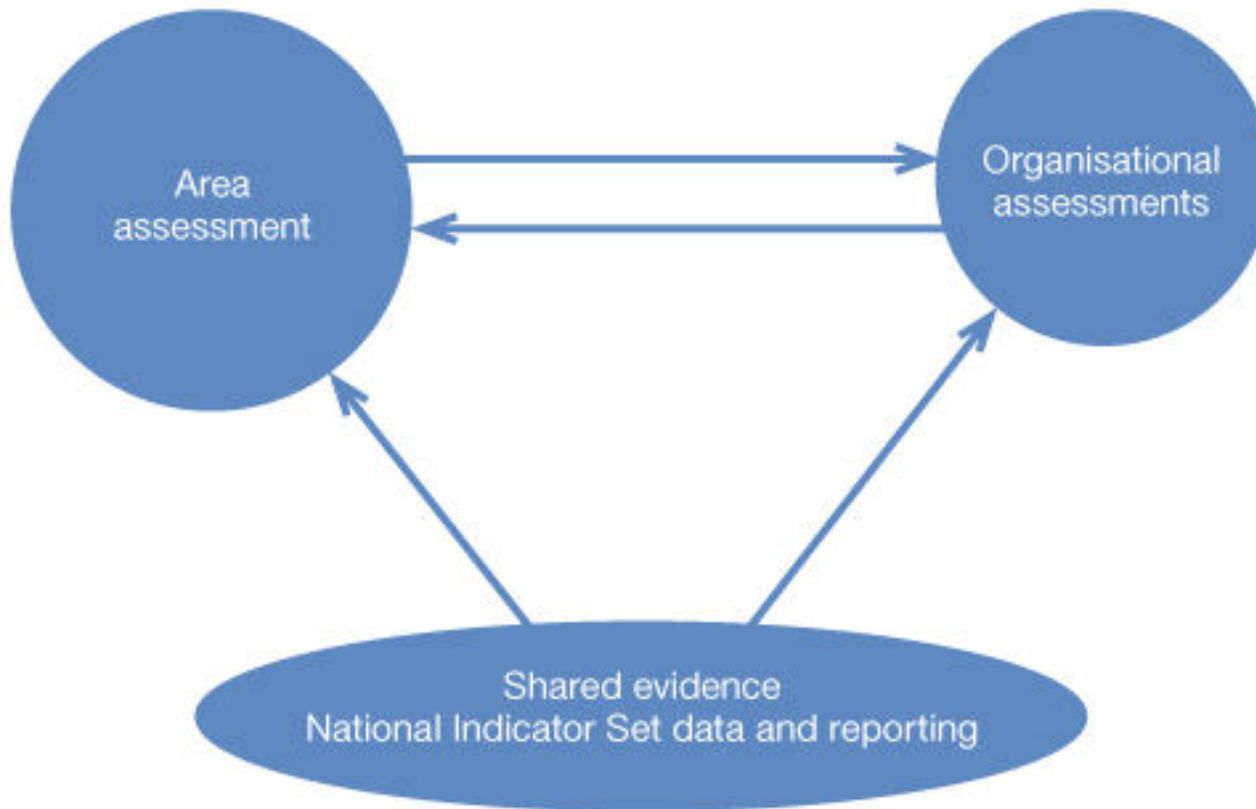
# Agenda

- Introduction to CAA
  - the framework
- Emerging Picture
  - Initial impressions from the Audit Commission's work
  - AC work NOT joint inspectorate at this stage
- Next Steps
  - Response
  - Further work
  - Updates from inspectorates



# The CAA Framework

The CAA framework







# Area assessment

## Forward looking, focused on outcomes in local priorities

- Answers three questions:
  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 improvement?**
- These questions will be underpinned by four themes that run through the assessment: sustainability, inequality, vulnerable people and value for money
- Green  and red  'flags' will signal exceptional performance, improvement or innovation, and significant concerns about future outcomes
- Judgement agreed across inspectorates



## Stage 1 AC work

- Early initial views
- Limited scope of review
  - Background notes/research
  - Direction of Travel
  - APAs
  - Local performance information
- Will be updated e.g.
  - NIS
  - Place survey
  - Local performance information
- Not a Joint inspectorate view at this stage
- Views could change over time



**How well do local priorities  
express community needs and  
aspirations?**



## How well do local priorities express community needs and aspirations?

- Clear understanding of the disparity within and across geographical communities.
  - Both SCS and LAA are grounded in context of Wirral.
- Good understanding of issues in relation to young people, older people.
- Range of examples on engagement e.g. community forums.
- Comprehensive engagement strategy being developed at a partnership levels.



## How well do local priorities express community needs and aspirations?

### Prospects for improvement – Further information needed

- How has community engagement informed priorities?
- SCS
  - What longer term outcome measures are to be in place
  - How will partners know if they have been successful in reducing inequalities?
  - How are partners going to deliver the priority around reducing inequalities? Is there a coherent and co-ordinated approach?
  - How are the plans cited in the SCS brought together to deliver partnership priorities?





**How well are outcomes and improvements being delivered?**

**What are the prospects for future improvement?**



## A strong local economy for Wirral.

- Wirral is ranked as the eighth most deprived area of the country in relation to employment.
- There are variations in levels of economic inactivity across Wirral
- Wirral has a higher than average proportion of the working age population on benefits
- The people with the lowest qualifications are least likely to find employment
- Whilst less people are claiming incapacity benefit more people are claiming job seekers allowance



## A strong local economy for Wirral.

### Prospects for improvement

- Investment Strategy in place
- Wirral Waters development
- Partnership arrangements reviewed - Wirral's Economic Development and Skills (WEDS) Partnership to lead.
- Working Wirral brings together a number of resources
- Wirral partners are developing a co-ordinated response to the recession.



## A strong local economy for Wirral.

### Questions

- Partners are working to understand the impact of the recession? What have they found and what action is being taken. What is the impact of interventions?
- What is being done to improve the levels of skills in Wirral?
- What is being done to reduce levels of worklessness?



## Safer, stronger communities in all parts of the borough.

- Overall crime levels have been falling over time
- Rates of burglaries, violent crimes, robberies and vehicle crimes have fallen although certain communities of the borough continue to suffer higher levels of crime than others.
- There has been a fall in residents' fear of crime. However, anti-social behaviour remains a significant issue for local people
- Serious injury and death of road users and pedestrians in Wirral continues to be a significant challenge.
- Serious violent crime – not on track to be achieved.



## Safer, stronger communities in all parts of the borough.

### Prospects for improvement

- Crime and Disorder Reduction and Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategies in place
- Eight Neighbourhood Teams,
- Wirral was selected by the government as one of 40 Respect areas as part of the drive against anti-social behaviour.
- Partners have achieved beacon status award for Positive Youth
- However, questions over sustainability of activities as a result of the withdrawal of existing funding



# Safer, stronger communities in all parts of the borough.

## Questions

- Violent crime – what is being done to reduce this?
- Road safety
- Sustainability of further improvements - What impact will any agreed changes in funding have?



## The best possible health and well-being for all families and individuals.

- Overall life expectancy is rising
  - But big variations in life expectancy between the most affluent and the most deprived areas,
- Key challenges in relation to tackling health inequalities are addressing alcohol harm
- There is a good understanding that poor health is linked to other deprivation indicators such as those around worklessness, as well as levels of educational attainment and aspiration.
- Rising older population





# The best possible health and well-being for all families and individuals.

## Prospects for improvement

- Recent I&DeA Healthy Communities Peer Review was positive about the work of the partnership and a health inequalities action plan is being developed.
- The health inequalities National Support Team have also undertaken work in Wirral recently.
- NHS Wirral and the Council have worked together to develop five lifestyle strategies to support improvement



# The best possible health and well-being for all families and individuals.

## Questions

- Future plans to reduce health inequalities?
- Actions arising from national support team review?
- Progress in alcohol reduction?
- Strategic Framework for Older People – is there a strategic framework for older people (over 50's) that goes beyond social care?



## Excellent life chances for children and young people.

- Overall attainment levels in primary schools are above the national and around 70% of all pupils in Wirral attain five or more A\*-C GCSE grades.
  - However, there are gaps in attainment levels across the borough.
- Progress has been made in reducing the number of young people 16-18 not in education, employment or training
  - In the most deprived areas of the borough have disproportionately higher levels of young people not in education employment or training.
- Rates of teenage parenthood in Wirral continue to be highest in those areas that experience higher levels of deprivation and poorer educational attainment.
- In 2007, the proportion of children who were classified as either overweight or obese was 25% of Reception Year children and 35% of Year Six children.



# Excellent life chances for children and young people.

## Questions

- Ofsted assessment for children and young people
- What is being done to reduce inequalities?
- Actions to reduce teenage conceptions?
- Reductions of levels of NEETs



## A high quality living and working environment

- Waste and recycling targets are being achieved
- Improvements in street and environmental cleanliness, graffiti & fly posting
  - However, levels of litter and detritus in more deprived areas have significantly worse performance
- Co2 Emission reductions – no progress information on this at the moment
- Congestion – average journey time per mile during the morning peak – indicates that journey times along the corridor are within target.



# A high quality living and working environment

## Questions

- How dealing with the levels of litter and detritus in more deprived areas?
  - implementation of a temporary SOA manager for waste and cleansing issues to work closely with community groups to improve environmental quality in the longer term.
- Reduction in the CO2 emissions and congestion?



## Sustainable, appropriate housing for all.

- There is a contrast between different parts of the Wirral in terms of tenure mix
  - areas containing a high proportion of social housing also coinciding with measures of high deprivation.
- There are low levels of new social and affordable housing. High numbers of empty properties
- Homelessness is decreasing, although not at the rate of some other authorities
- The strategic housing inspection carried out in 2007 indicated that Wirral had good intelligence about housing markets and stock condition,
- The annual performance review of NewHeartlands carried out in 2008 concluded it was “performing well”.



## Sustainable, appropriate housing for all.

### Questions

- Strategic Housing priorities - how priorities align with needs
- Housing Markets – How well Wirral understands stock condition in distinct areas of the borough and the outcomes of its work in the HMR area.
- What proposals are there to reduce number of empty homes?
- Homelessness - Wirral's preventative work?





## Next Steps

- Discussion with partners about the issues raised
- Update us on progress
- Performance information – NIS, Place Survey, local information
- More work with other inspectorates to develop the emerging picture