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Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA)

January 2009



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Outline

- What is CAA?
- The aims of CAA
- The assessments
- How will it work?
- Timeline



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What is CAA?

- New approach to assessing the performance of local public services in an area
- Replaces the Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA)
- Focuses on how well councils and their partners are delivering better **outcomes** and improving the quality of life for **local** people



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How is CAA different to CPA?

	CAA	CPA
Assesses	Council and Partners	Council
Performance indicators	198 national indicators	Hundreds of standard indicators
Focus	Local = tailored	National = all same
	Citizen	Organisation
	Achievement	Performance
	Forward	Past
Assessment by	Joint Inspectorates	Audit Commission
Process	Ongoing relationship	Inspection event
	Triggered inspection	Regular programme of inspections



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CAA involves two types of assessment:

- **Area Assessment**

A qualitative assessment of how well public services are addressing the issues that matter most and whether things are likely to improve.

- **Organisational assessment**

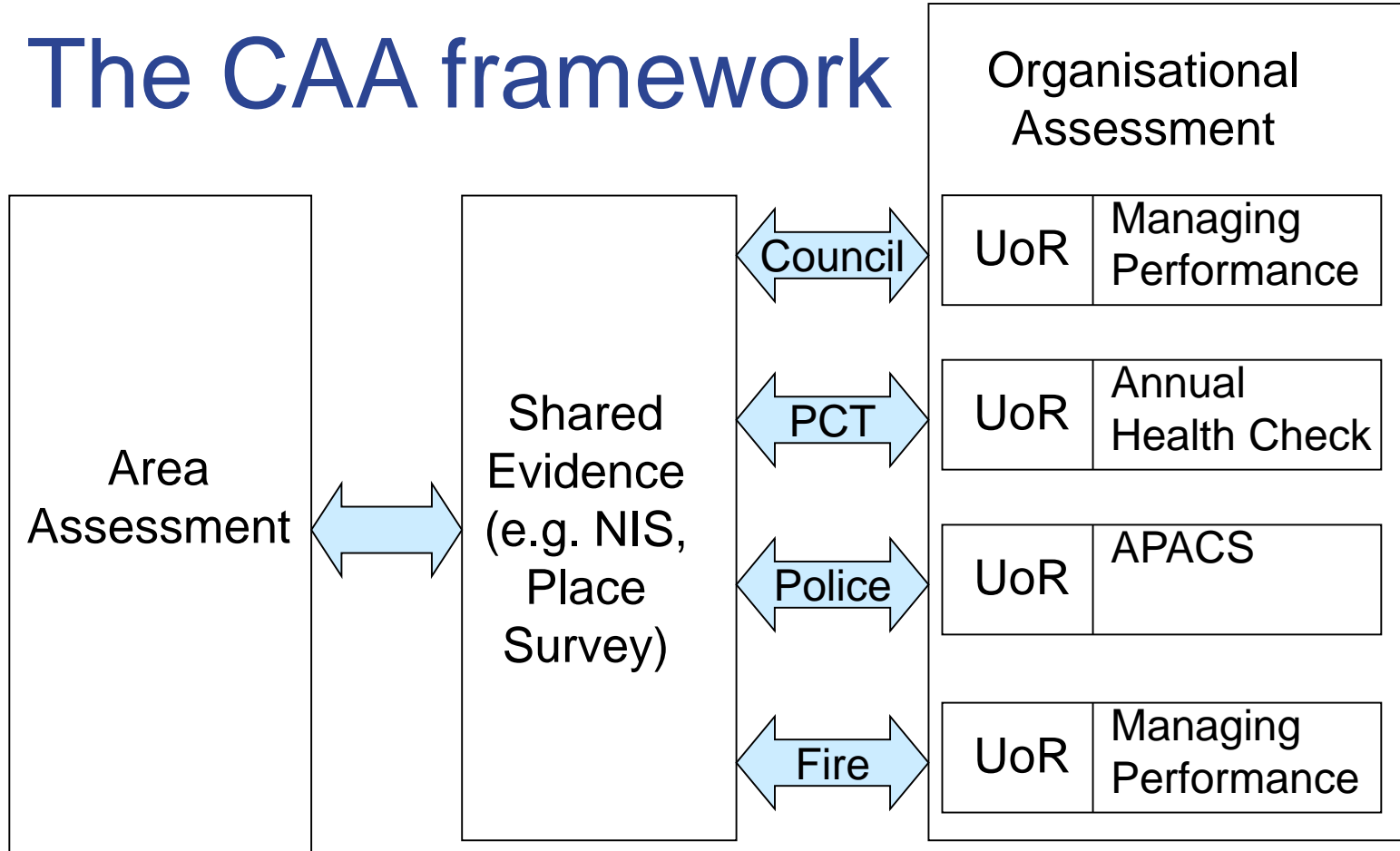
A scored assessment that varies by organisational types. Councils will have a Use of Resources and a Managing performance element.



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The CAA framework





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Area Assessment

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

Focus on priority outcomes from LAA and Sustainable Community Strategy, as well as vulnerable groups



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Area Assessment - Outcomes

- How safe is this area?
- How healthy and well supported are people?
- How well kept is the area?
- How environmentally sustainable is the area?
- How strong is the local economy?
- How strong and cohesive are local communities?
- How well is inequality being addressed?
- How well is housing need met?
- How well are families supported?
- How good is the well-being of children and young people?



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Organisational assessment

- **Managing performance:** How well is the organisation delivering sustainable improvements in its priority services and outcomes that are important to local people? Does it have the leadership, capacity and capability it needs to deliver future improvements?
- **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 natural resources, physical assets and people to meet current and future needs and deliver value for money?

**Joint inspectorate
assessment**

**Use of resources
assessment**

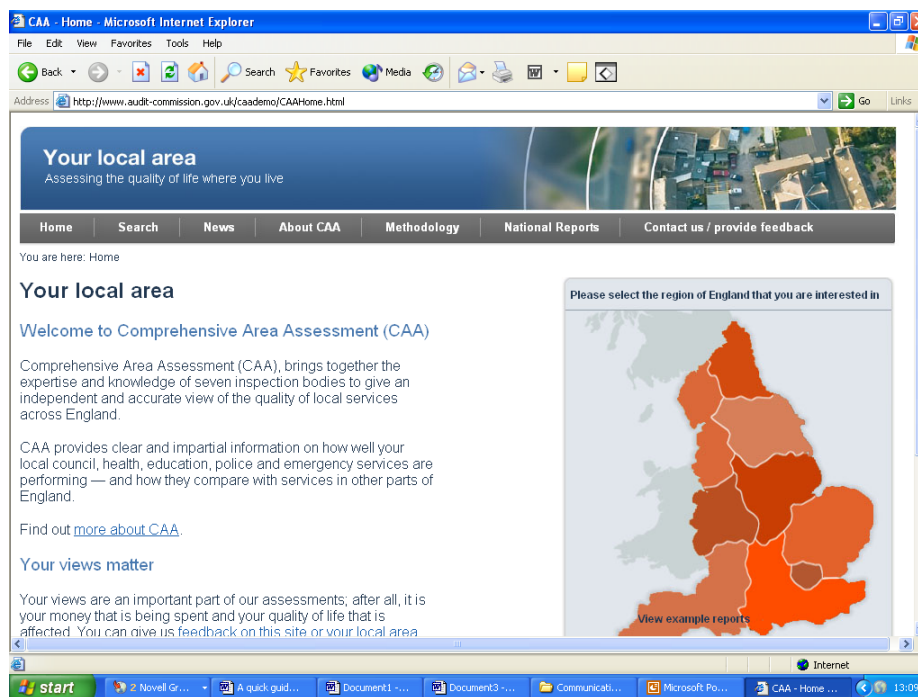


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CAA Timeline

- July 08 – consultation document published
- October 08 – deadline for consultation response
- November 08 – CAA trialing ends
- February 09 – final CAA framework published
- February 09 – final council CPA results published
- April 09 – CAA starts
- April – Sept 09 – evidence gathering
- November 09 – first CAA reports published



If you are interested in seeing how the Comprehensive Area Assessment works in practice, visit <http://www.audit-commission.gov.uk/caademo/CAAHome.html> for an example assessment of a fictional authority