

CABINET

DATE 15 December 2009

Cabinet members: Councillor Jane Scott - Leader of the Council
Councillor Thomson - Deputy Leader and Community Services
Councillor Lionel Grundy –Children’s Services

Comprehensive Area Assessment December 2009

Purpose of Report

1. This item is to inform Cabinet about judgements made by external inspectorates about Wiltshire. These relate to the Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) and to assessments of children’s services and adult social care. The CAA and the assessment of children’s services are embargoed until the 9th December 2009 and so will be circulated to Cabinet on that date. The assessment of adult social care was published on 3rd December and is to follow.

Background

2. This year the Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) was replaced by the Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA), which brings together the judgements of a number of inspectorates:
 - The Audit Commission;
 - The Care Quality Commission (CQC) - adult social care and health;
 - The Office for Standards in Education, Children’s Services and Skills (Ofsted) - children’s services;
 - HMI Probation; HMI Constabulary and HMI Prisons
3. CAA is in two parts:
 - An **Area Assessment** that looks at how public services work together in an area, and
 - **Organisational Assessments** of Wiltshire Council, Wiltshire Police, NHS Wiltshire, and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue. Organisational assessments consider how well organisations ‘use resources’ and ‘manage performance’ and are scored 1 (lowest) to 4 (highest).

For December 2009, the Council will receive a written organisational assessment but this will not be scored because the Audit Commission decided not to score ‘reorganising authorities’ in the first year. The Council will be scored in 2010.
4. Area Assessments are not scored. These look at how well priorities express community needs and aspirations; the results (outcomes) against priorities; and the Prospects for improvement, including
 - Green flags for exceptional performance/outstanding improvement

- Red flags for significant concerns which are not being tackled adequately
5. In addition to their contribution to the CAA, Ofsted and CQC will publish specific judgements on services:
- Ofsted: an overall rating of the performance of children's services, and
 - CQC: an Annual Performance Assessment of adult social care

Main Considerations for the Council

6. As explained above, the results are embargoed until publication so reports outlining the results will be made available:
- 3rd December: CQC - adult social care
- 9th December:
- Wiltshire's Area Assessment and the Council's (unscored) organisational assessment; and
 - Ofsted - children's services

Impact of the proposal - Environmental, Equalities, Financial and Legal

7. This report is for information so there are no direct implications.

Risk Assessment

8. This report is for information so there are no immediate decisions to be made. Inspection judgements can impact on reputation and public confidence.

Options Considered

9. This report is for information so there are no options to consider.

Conclusions

10. The results of the inspection judgements for CAA, Children's Services and Adult Social Care will be published in December. These will feed into action planning for the Council and its work with partners.

Proposal

11. That Cabinet notes the results of CAA and the annual assessments of Children's Services and Adult Social Care and asks officers to consider these in action planning and in the Council's work with partners.

Reason for Proposal

12. To inform Cabinet of Wiltshire's inspection results.

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Background Papers The following unpublished documents have been relied on in the preparation of this report: None