



for an independent overview  
of local public services

Chairs of Local Strategic Partnerships

16 October 2009

Dear Colleague,

## **COMPREHENSIVE AREA ASSESSMENT (CAA) AREA ASSESSMENT**

We are now entering the final stages of preparing CAA assessments for publication on 10 December 2009. Attached to this letter you will find our pre-publication draft version of your area assessment, most of which you will have seen before. Please share this letter and attached assessment with your LSP partners, but otherwise treat it as a confidential draft.

I would like to thank you for the help and support given to the Audit Commission CAA Lead, and the leads from the other inspectorates. This has enabled us to produce a more forward looking assessment which reflects important local issues. I hope that you have found this engagement open and constructive.

As you know CAA is a new way of assessing public services in England. The area assessment focuses on the prospects for better outcomes on local priorities. Where there are key agreed outcomes that are not on track given the current activities underway or planned by partners we have indicated this by a red flag. If there is exceptional performance or outstanding improvement in outcomes from which others could learn we have indicated this by a green flag.

The assessment attached to this letter includes the summary and full text that will appear on the Oneplace website in December. Your CAA Lead will have discussed it, including any flags, with you recently.

If you remain dissatisfied with the award of a red flag you may request a review by setting out the full case in writing to [review-office@audit-commission.gov.uk](mailto:review-office@audit-commission.gov.uk) before 5pm on Friday 30 October 2009. Before requesting a review, please read the [review procedure](#) which explains more about this.

Outside the review process in relation to red flags we may agree with you changes to the wording of the assessment to improve clarity and address any remaining concerns you have.

Over the next few weeks we will share a summary picture of the emerging assessments in each region with Government Offices and the Improvement and Development Agency so that they are aware of any significant issues for improvement planning.

I will send you a final copy of your assessment by 5pm on Friday 4 December 2009. You will receive this under embargo until the 10 December 2009. I would ask you to respect this embargo.

Your assessment will appear on the Oneplace website on 10 December 2009. This is a new joint inspectorate website for independent information about the performance and prospects for improvement of local public services throughout England. You can see a preview of the Oneplace website [here](#).

Please contact your Audit Commission CAA Lead in the first instance if you have any questions.

Yours faithfully



*Gareth Davies*  
*Chair of the CAA Strategy Group*

cc Your nominated contacts

Audit Commission CAA Lead  
Audit Commission Appointed Auditor  
Her Majesty's Inspector, Ofsted  
Area Manager, Care Quality Commission  
Single Point of Contact, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary