



Regional workshop
Comprehensive Area Assessment: Gearing Up
9.00 a.m. – 1.00 p.m., 24 June 2009
Venue: Radisson Hotel, Durham

Hosted by the Association of North East Councils, North East Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnership and SOLACE Enterprises

In April 2009 Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) replaced CPA as the way in which the performance of local authorities, fire & rescue authorities and their local public service partners are judged. CAA will consider the way local services work together to address the needs and aspirations of their area; it will focus on outcomes; and it will look forward to consider the prospects for improvement.

Local public services will, for the first time, be held collectively to account for their impact on improving local areas and the quality of life for those who live there. CAA will put the experience of citizens, service users and local taxpayers at the heart of the new assessment framework, with a particular focus on those whose circumstances make them vulnerable.

This workshop is an opportunity for members, officers and partners to really 'gear up' for CAA, to understand the challenges of effective partnership working and accountability in the locality, consider how to address them, explore the role of councillors and hear from an authority's experience at the coal-face to share learning and understanding.

SOLACE Enterprises is experienced in supporting local public services prepare for self assessment and inspection. It has brought together a group of experienced consultants, who, throughout the event in presentation, panel and workshop environments will lead a discussion on the following themes:

- use of resources and managing performance;
- effective partnerships – culture, performance and accountability;
- the role of councillors;
- maximising the partnership workforce; and
- partnership scrutiny.

The event is aimed at councilors, lead officers (for policy, performance, CAA, LAA, MAA and delivery), partner agencies, especially duty to cooperate partners, LSP chairs, managers and board members, partnership champions.

To register your free place at this event, please return the attached pro forma to alison.reilly@northeastcouncils.gov.uk by 12 June 2009.



GEARING UP FOR CAA - REGIONAL WORKSHOP PROGRAMME

9.00am – 1.00pm, 24 June 2009
Radisson Hotel, Durham

- 8.45 Registration**
- 9.15 Chair's Welcome - Irene Lucas, Chief Executive South Tyneside MBC and RIEP Programme Sponsor for Partnerships**
- 9.25 Keynote address – Cllr Mick Henry (invited), Chair, Association of North East Councils**
- 9.40 Understanding CAA challenges and what 'excellence' might look like in the new regime**
Guy Ware –SOLACE Enterprises Lead Associate.
- 10.00 Implementing CAA – A live example, learning from another region**
Input from a lead councillor, senior officer and partner of a unitary authority.
- 10.30 Partner Agency Perspective**
Getting the perspective of CAA from a partner agency in the region working to an inspectorate different to the Audit Commission.
- 10.50 Q&A session and table discussion**
Led by the Chair, Irene Lucas.
- 11.20 Break**
- 11.45 Workshops:**
- **Effective Partnerships (culture, performance, accountability and the duty to co-operate): what needs to change in our partnerships to adapt to CAA** – Facilitated by Mike Ellis, SOLACE Enterprises
 - **Use of Resources and Managing performance** – Facilitated by Guy Ware, SOLACE Enterprises
 - **Role of Members (proactive leadership): addressing the democratic deficit where partnerships might bypass members' roles** – Jointly facilitated Cllr Irene Macdonald, Norfolk County Council and Martin Horton, SOLACE Enterprises
 - **Maximising the partnership workforce: spanning agencies' boundaries** – Facilitated by Angela Probert SOLACE Enterprises with Local Authority Case Study
 - **Developing Key relationships with lead officials and managing local government reputation following CAA outcomes- Speaker TBC**
 - **Effective Partnership Scrutiny-** led by IDeA.
- 12.45 Plenary and sum up Chaired by Irene Lucas**
The role of the NEIEP- supporting delivery of LAA targets
- 13.00 Close, lunch, networking and departure**