

CPA

What is Corporate Assessment?

The Corporate Assessment, carried out by the Audit Commission in September 2006 makes up 50 per cent of the CPA score and rating.



Corporate Assessment is part of the Audit Commission's Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) framework. It focuses on the importance of a sound corporate 'engine' to drive good services. It measures how effectively the council is working corporately, and with its partners, to improve services and deliver improved outcomes for local people.

Achievement is assessed by examining how well councils are delivering local priorities and outcomes across five sub-themes. These are based on the 'shared priorities' agreed by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister's central and local government partnership. The five sub-themes are:

- Sustainable communities and transport
- Safer and stronger communities
- Healthier communities
- Older people
- Children and young people

Based on our ambition, capacity, prioritisation, performance and achievement, we have been scored as a 4 under the new harder test (and are the joint first in the country to be awarded a 4!)

The Audit Commission's overall judgement was that:

We are:

- Raising aspirations of local people
- Continuing our strong leadership
- Co-ordinating plans with our partners
- A Learning organisation responding to challenge
- Setting targets to address inequalities
- Developing clear priorities to meet local needs

We have

- A strong performance management culture, leading to improvements
- Made improvements in Performance Indicators
- Responded to national and local priorities
- Embraced opportunity

We are building:

Safer and stronger communities – by:

- Reducing crime and anti-social behaviour
- Providing community cohesion
- Targeting road safety

Healthier communities – by:

- Reducing mortality rates
- Providing activities around reducing alcohol and substance misuse
- Using the Local Area Agreement (LAA) to provide the vehicle to address preventative issues

We are improving:

Services to older people – by:

- Providing a well co-ordinated approach to the provision of adult services
- Focusing on prevention and what is needed
- Developing good partnerships

We need to:

- Develop a neighbourhood management model
- Make improvements to waste management
- Ensure effective access to local transport



Your guide to the outcomes of recent inspections



If you would like a full copy of the reports or subsequent action plans resulting from the inspection process, go to:

www.wigan.gov.uk and click on council and democracy

Alternatively, if you would like a hard copy please phone CYPS on 01942 486123.

This publication is also available in other languages, on audio tape or CD and in large print.

Contact us at CYPS, 7 Worsley Terrace, Standishgate, Wigan, WN1 1XW. Phone 01942 206205

Children and Young People's Services promotes equality and celebrates diversity.

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Your guide to the outcomes of recent inspections

The Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) looks at how well the council delivers its services, for example education, social care and housing. It also considers how well the council is run, as this will impact on how they deliver their services in the future.



The JAR findings represent approximately 40% of the total score for the Council's CPA. However, the JAR is a multi-agency inspection of all relevant services for children and young people across the borough. The Youth Offending Team (YOT) and Youth Service contribute to the JAR and the CPA.

The Joint Area Review (JAR)

The JAR was part of the overall CPA structure and took place at the same time as the Corporate Assessment in Summer 2006. It is an in depth analysis of how services in Wigan collectively work for children and young people.

Key summary points:

- Outcomes for children and young people in Wigan are GOOD
- Wigan provision in every major area of service for children is GOOD
- The impact of local services in improving outcomes for children and young people is GOOD
- Capacity to improve is OUTSTANDING especially in Council services

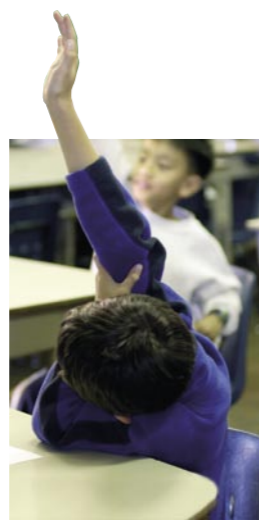
Areas and activities where we should celebrate our success:

- Partnerships
- Early Years
- Improvements in all areas
- Management of resources
- Healthy schools
- Youth work
- Restorative justice
- Support for vulnerable groups
- Commitment and enthusiasm of staff
- Our work on "Narrowing the Gap"
- Achievement in schools
- Advice on progression and many more!

Looking forward in Children and Young People's Services. We need to:

- Identify priorities and align budgets
- Continue work to reduce teenage pregnancies
- Fully implement the local participation strategy
- Implement fully the 14-19 strategy
- Improve access and participation for children and young people and their parents.

An action plan has been developed and will address areas for improvement highlighted from the JAR inspectors' report. These improvements will be integrated into the revised Children and Young People's Plan.



Youth Offending Team (YOT)

The inspection of Wigan YOT was conducted in conjunction with the Joint Area Review of Children's Services in Wigan.

Strengths

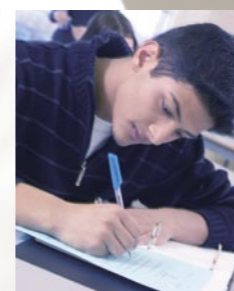
- The inspectors found much to impress and were pleased to find no areas of significant weakness.
- Victims and restorative justice work was excellent. The inspectors found good examples of how a well run and responsive scheme can make a positive contribution to the community and help victims gain closure.
- Staff, managers and volunteers were committed to the work of the YOT.
- Recent changes had been made which should improve the effectiveness of the Management Board.
- There was also much effective work in the courts.
- The YOT played a significant role in work to address antisocial behaviour and prevent offending.
- Case management practice was generally very good.

- Where children and young people received a custodial sentence, the YOT remained fully involved through all phases of the sentence and worked hard to ensure effective reintegration into the community on release from custody.



Areas for development

- Work to manage Risk of Harm to others was good, although more needed to be done to ensure consistent identification of risks.
- However, the provision of some services requiring the support of partners remained problematic.
- Many areas for improvement found in this inspection had already been recognised and work was in hand to address them.



Youth Service

The Youth Service in Wigan is part of a multi-agency team located within Children and Young People's Services (CYPS). The multi-agency team include Youth Workers, Connexions Personal Advisers and Education Welfare Officers. The JAR was enhanced to enable coverage of the Youth Service.



Results were:

- Wigan delivers a good youth service that provides good value for money.
- Young people are achieving well in all types of provision.
- The quality of youth work practice is good.
- Staff are well qualified and experienced and are effectively managed and supported.
- Very good partnership work is adding value to the quality of young people's learning, enjoyment and progression.
- Leaders and managers have established a clear vision and strategic priorities for the service that are effectively communicated to staff and partners at all levels.
- Resources are carefully managed and targeted to meet the needs of vulnerable and marginalised groups.
- The service is modestly funded and, despite success in attracting external funding, there is significant unmet demand for youth service activities.
- Many of the venues for youth work are not readily accessible, suitable or sufficiently attractive for youth work and this limits the curriculum that can be delivered.

Strengths

- The standard of young people's achievement is high.
- The quality of youth work practice is good.
- Effective partnerships add value to the quality of young people's experience.
- Managers provide a clear sense of direction and purpose.
- Planning and performance management procedures are robust.

Areas for development

- The budget available to the service limits provision.
- Young people are insufficiently involved in reviewing and recording their progress.
- The lack of attractive, well equipped and accessible venues limits the service's capacity to engage young people.
- The involvement of young people in the design, management and evaluation of provision is underdeveloped.

