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COMPREHENSIVE AREA ASSESSMENTS

Delivering better outcomes through the new assessment framework

Delegate Guide

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Ipsos MORI

7th Annual Conference **COMMUNITY CONSULTATION**

EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES

Thursday 19th March 2009, Barbican Centre, London EC2

Conference chair:

Pascoe Sawyers
Director, Leadership Academy
Improvement and Development Agency

Speakers include:

Ben Page
Director, **Ipsos MORI**

Rhion Jones
Director, **Consultation Institute**

Gareth Davies
Managing Director Local Government,
Audit Commission

Gemma Bruce
Research Manager, **Turning Point**

Isobel Mills
Deputy Regional Director for People,
Government Office Yorkshire and Humber

The MJ's 'Community Consultation' conference comes at a crucial time for those providing local public services for their communities. Never before has listening to, and involving, local communities been higher on the political agenda.

This national event will bring together delegates to discuss the challenges and opportunities arising from the empowerment agenda, it will provide:

- Policy analysis
- Practical solutions
- Valuable insight and examples of best practice
- Presentations from politicians, senior practitioners and leading commentators

This conference is a must attend event to ensure you are consulting with, informing and involving your community.

For further information please contact:
Laura Brownlee on **Tel: 020 7324 4372** or
email: laura.brownlee@neilstewartassociates.co.uk

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Register online today:
www.neilstewartassociates.com/sa254

All Comprehensive Area Assessment delegates and their colleagues receive a 10% discount. Call 020 7324 4372 to register!

Foreword

Dear delegate,

On behalf of Neil Stewart Associates I would like to welcome you to today's conference.

Last week the Audit Commission published the new framework for the Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) ready to be put in to practice this April.

Held by ***The* MJ**, with support from the **Improvement and Development Agency**, this conference will examine challenges and opportunities in the lead up to the implementation of the CAA. It will enable delegates to understand their relationship with the new assessment framework.

Delegates will be able to gain knowledge on the CAA framework through presentations delivered by senior representatives from the Audit Commission. Experienced practitioners and leading commentators, will examine how the CAA will fulfil its promises to be more relevant to local people; develop a shared view about the challenges facing an area; and create a more joined up and proportionate approach to public service regulation.

I do hope you enjoy today's event

Katy Gillespie
Senior Account Manager
& Head of Local Government
Neil Stewart Associates

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Agenda

(Subject to change)

09:00 Registration, exhibition and refreshments

SESSION ONE: A NEW FRAMEWORK FOR ASSESSMENT

10:00 **Introduction and welcome from conference chair**
Michael Burton, Editor, The MJ

10:10 **CAA Opportunities for local public services**
Cllr David Parsons, Chair, LGA Improvement Board

10:30 **Why the CAA?**
Michael O'Higgins, Chair, Audit Commission

10:50 Questions and discussion

11:10 Refreshments and exhibition

SESSION TWO: WORKING TOGETHER AS AN AREA

11:40 **The CAA in detail – how will it work?**
Gareth Davies, Managing Director – Local Government, Audit Commission

12:00 **Ensuring greater consistency across the sectors**
Melanie Hunt, Director of Learning and Skills, Ofsted

12:20 Involving partners in the assessment process - questions and discussion

12:50 Buffet Lunch and exhibition

SESSION THREE: THE CAA AND ACCOUNTABILITY OF LOCAL PUBLIC SERVICES

14:00 **Improving Local Accountability**
Mick Burrows, Chief Executive, Nottingham County Council

14:20 **Citizens Engagement and the CAA**
Davy Jones, Independent Consultant

14:40 **Local Public services and accountability**
Lucy de Groot, Executive Director, IDeA

15:00 Questions and discussion

SESSION FOUR: STREAMS

15:15 **Interactive streams**
Delegates should choose to attend one stream in this session.

1) **Self evaluation in the CAA** ***CINEMA 2***
Mandy James, National Advisor, Improvement and Development Agency for Local Government

Mandy Skinner, Assistant Director, London Borough of Richmond upon Thames

2) **Effective measurement, monitoring and communication of outcomes** ***REDGRAVE SUITE***
John Fisher, Director, Local Futures Group

16:15 Close of conference

COMPLIMENTARY ACCESS TO CONFERENCE DOCUMENTS

Neil Stewart Associates are keen to reduce any environmental costs incurred by this conference, and do not print speaker presentations as standard. Access will be available up until a week after the conference. If you need access after this time please contact us.

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Speaker Biographies

Biographies are shown alphabetically by surname

Michael Burton
Editor
The MJ

Michael Burton has been writing and commenting on local government for over 20 years and has interviewed every secretary of state covering local government since the 1980s. He is Editor of *The M*J (Municipal Journal) and Editorial Director of its parent company, publishers and event organizers, The Hemming Group, overseeing its growing portfolio of local government titles. Apart from *The MJ*, these include the *Municipal Year Book, Local Government News, Surveyor* and the local government website www.localgov.co.uk

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Cllr David Parsons
Chair, Improvement Board
Local Government Assocaition

David Parsons is Chair of the Improvement Board and a Deputy Chairman of the Local Government Association. He is leading the national agenda for the RIEPs and sustainable communities. David is also an Accredited Peer of the IDeA.

He has been Leader of Leicestershire County Council since May 2003. Under his leadership Leicestershire has twice been confirmed as a '4 star' authority. David is Chairman of EMRA, a full member of the UK Delegation to the Committee of the Regions (CoR) of the European Union and a member of the Commission for Economic and Social Policy (ECOS).

David has been appointed to the Regional Economic Council by HM Government, which brings together representatives from all the Regional Economic Cabinets. It meets quarterly and is chaired by the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Secretary of State for BERR. He is also a member of the East Midlands Regional Economic Cabinet.

Michael O'Higgins
Chair
Audit Commission

Michael O'Higgins has been Chairman of the Audit Commission since October 2006. For the previous ten years, Michael was a Managing Partner with PA Consulting Group, leading its Government and IT Consulting Groups, latterly as an International Board Director.

He was previously a partner at Price Waterhouse, worked at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development in Paris and held academic posts at the University of Bath, the London School of Economics, Harvard University and the Australian National University.

He is also currently the Chair of Centrepoint, having been on the Board of Trustees since 2002, became a Trustee of the National Centre for Social Research early in 2007, and a member of the Cabinet Secretary's Capability Review Moderation Panel in May 2007.

Gareth Davies
Managing Director – Local Government
Audit Commission

Gareth Davies was appointed as the Audit Commission's Managing Director for Local Government, Housing and Community Safety in March 2007. He was previously Regional Director for the Commission's Northern Region, responsible for the Commission's audit and inspection work at over 200 local government and NHS bodies.

Gareth has played a leading role in the development and delivery of the Commission's local government work in recent years. Prior to becoming Regional Director in 2000, he was the appointed auditor to metropolitan councils and health authorities in West Yorkshire and his public audit career has also included spells in London and the South East. He is a CIPFA member.

Gareth is also a trustee and Honorary Treasurer of Oxfam, in which role he chairs the charity's Audit Committee.

Melanie Hunt
Director of Learning and Skills, Children's Services and Skills
Ofsted

Melanie Hunt is Director for Learning and Skills and has responsibility for leading Ofsted's Learning and Skills Directorate. The Directorate is responsible for inspections of colleges, work-based learning, adult and community learning, nextstep, learndirect, judicial services (with HMI Prisons and HMI Probation) and programmes sponsored by the Department for Work and Pensions. The team also undertakes commissioned work for the Ministry of Defence, HMI Constabulary and the Home Office. Melanie has a corporate leadership role in overseeing the development of the new joint inspectorate Comprehensive Area Assessment, and the work of the Inspection Development Project - designing frameworks and approaches to inspection that are 'future-proofed'.

Prior to her appointment to Ofsted, Melanie worked for the Learning and Skills Council in a variety of roles. As National Director of Learning she held responsibility for the LSC's strategies in adult learning, 14 -19 learning, quality assurance, learner support and equality and diversity. She developed strong working relationships with a range of strategic partners in the public, private and voluntary sectors.

Melanie is originally from Sussex and worked there for almost 20 years. She was Director of Quality and Strategy at the LSC, supporting the transformation of the learning and skills system in the local area. Prior to that she was an inspector for the Further Education Funding Council, inspecting FE colleges of all types and specialising in humanities and leadership and management. Melanie has held senior positions in two FE colleges, has worked in a local authority as an education officer for FE and taught in a 14 -19 school. She is an Oxford graduate and a Fellow of the RSA.

Mick Burrows
Chief Executive
Nottingham County Council

Mick joined Nottinghamshire County Council in 1995 as a project manager for adult learning. He later became a strategy manager in regeneration and was appointed assistant director in culture and community in 1999. In 2003 he was promoted to Director of Culture and Community and in 2006 he oversaw the merger of two large departments and became strategic director of communities. Mick is a member of the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development and has a Masters Degree in Urban Regeneration from Sheffield Hallam University.

Davy Jones
Independent Consultant

Davy is a freelance consultant specialising in the inter-related areas of: citizen empowerment, participatory budgeting, performance management and Local Strategic Partnerships. He is also a national commentator on the developing policy context for local services.

Davy works with the Improvement and Development Agency, the Consultation Institute, the Participatory Budgeting Unit, Progress through Partnership, LSP Futures, Governance International and Shared Intelligence.

Previously, Davy worked for the Audit Commission for 8 years, leading on the acclaimed Area Profiles project, national PIs for local councils, quality of life indicators and most recently the Commission's work stream on CAA & public engagement. Davy authored more than a dozen national Commission reports on performance management, equalities, quality of life indicators and Area Profiles.

Previously, Davy worked for 11 years in three London councils on strategic planning, performance management and policy development in both corporate and housing departments.

Lucy de Groot
Executive Director
Improvement and Development Agency (IDeA)

Lucy de Groot has been the Executive Director of the Improvement and Development Agency (IDeA) since 2003. Her career has ranged across the civil service, local government and the voluntary and community sectors, including roles as Director of Public Services in HM Treasury, Chief Executive of Bristol City Council and Head of Policy for the London Borough of Lewisham. Lucy began her career in local government twenty years ago as an employment policy adviser working for Hackney Council in East London after over ten years in a variety of roles in the community and not-for-profit sectors in both London and Manchester.

Mandy James
Comprehensive Area Assessment Programme Development Manager
Improvement and Development Agency

Mandy James leads the agency's work on developing a sector proposition for CAA, working closely with the Local Government Association (LGA). This includes developing self evaluation and approaches to peer challenge. Mandy has over 15 years local government experience. This includes a secondment at the London Borough of Lewisham where she was Interim Head of Service Development. At Lewisham, Mandy: managed a team responsible for improving customer services. This included the Front Line Academy, which maximised the role and development of frontline staff in improving services.

Before joining the IDeA, Mandy was Corporate Policy Manager with the London Borough of Hackney. She worked on the improvement plan following the corporate governance inspection of the council. Prior to this, she worked at London Borough of Hillingdon, leading on consultation and a programme of capital projects. She started her local government career as Assistant City Centre Manager at Nottingham City Council.

Mandy Skinner
Assistant Director Commissioning, Corporate Policy and Strategy
London Borough of Richmond upon Thames

Mandy Skinner took up a new position, combining corporate functions with a strategic commissioning role at the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames in April 2008. Mandy has responsibility for corporate performance management, strategy, community engagement and consultation, equalities and procurement alongside service specific functions in relation to housing development and social care quality assurance and performance management. Prior to joining the authority, Mandy spent five years as a civil servant, originally at ODPM, setting up a local government strategy and research unit, and later at CLG supporting programmes on community engagement and latterly at the Thames Gateway.

Immediately before joining the civil service, Mandy was the Programme Manager for Improvement at the LGA at the time of the first round of CPA, and set up a range of support and capacity building programmes. Mandy's background is mostly working in London boroughs on corporate strategy and performance management and previously in housing policy and housing management.

John Fisher
Director
Local Futures Group

John is Director of the Local Futures Group. He worked in economic development and regeneration for many years, with local authorities and regional development agencies, before joining the Henley Centre for Forecasting, where he established the successful Planning for Local Change programme. At the Local Futures Group he works on a wide range of research and strategy projects, at a regional and local level, and leads the company's work on sustainable community strategies and 'place-shaping'. He is also responsible for the company's *Local Knowledge* range of products, which are used by local authorities and their partners across Britain.

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Leadership Centre for local government

National LSP Conference

Local Strategic Partnerships '09

Strengthening and Promoting Partnerships

Thursday 11th June 2009
Inmarsat Conference Centre, London EC1

All Comprehensive Area Assessments delegates and their colleagues receive 10% off!

Call 020 7324 4372 and quote 'CAA rate' when booking.

Speakers Include:

Irene Lucas CBE
Chief Executive, South Tyneside MBC (Beacon Council)

Gareth Davies
Managing Director, Local Government, Audit Commission

Martin Reeves
Chief Executive, Coventry City Council (formerly Chief Executive, Bedfordshire County Council)

For further information and to request a brochure when available, contact Laura Brownlee on 020 7324 4372 or email laura.brownlee@neilstewartassociates.co.uk

On 1st April 2009, the 'duty to involve' representatives of local persons in decision making and service provision comes into effect. In practice, the onus falls on LSPs to provide representatives of local people with information about services, policies and decisions of interest to them, as well as opportunities to have their say about decisions and services that affect them through effective community involvement.

With the advent of the CAA, LSP partners will need to demonstrate that they are cooperating with one another to meet targets. Therefore, there is an even greater imperative for those involved in LSPs to meet, exchange ideas and forge productive working relationships.

Supported by the Leadership Centre for Local Government, this seminal conference will address critical issues such as how LSPs can have their say at the regional level, LAA delivery across two tiers, place shaping, performance management and private/transport sector involvement.

Now entering its eighth year, this crucial annual event continues to provide local authorities and their partners with valuable policy insights and unrivalled networking opportunities.

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