Reducing the burden of inspection

Best Practice in Locality Self-Evaluation

Chris Williams

Chief Executive

Buckinghamshire County Council

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promoting prosperity, tackling inequalities

Why choose self-evaluation?

- BSP has an excellent track record:
  - ✓ Innovative ‘family’ of Sustainable Community Strategies
  - ✓ Best LAA in SE
  - ✓ Performance management ethos

- Culture of self-knowledge and understanding
- CAA self-assessment - extension of own approach

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The Process

- IDeA pilot – County Council co-ordination
- Focus
  - The challenges facing Buckinghamshire
  - What we are proud of
  - What we are working to improve
- Resource intensive

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The Result

- Owned and recognisable assessment of Buckinghamshire
- Fully integrated with partnership agenda
- Maturing relationship with inspectors
- Agreed Improvement Plan:
  - Promoting economic prosperity
  - Tackling disadvantage
  - Community safety
  - Securing value for money

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Opportunities and benefits

- Platform for partnership discussions
- Chance to challenge
- Building shared perspective
- Developing outcome thinking

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Reduced burden of inspection?

- Not this time
- Lighter touch inspections?
- Useful points:
  - Stimulated partnership improvements
  - OnePlace website
  - Outcome focus
  - Self-assessment integrated into annual community planning cycle
- System of self evaluation and peer challenge
- Focus on organisational financial assessments?

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