The contribution of Ofsted to CAA

The Building Blocks of Total Place

Maureen York, CAA HMI

19 January 2010

Context

- An important and challenging time for local public services and its delivery, including services for children and young people.
- Expectations of public services are properly high and it is right that everyone should have access to public services that are really effective and efficient.
- The arrangements for assessing local services have much to contribute to improving outcomes and services for children and young people.

The purpose of the seminar

Ofsted

To explain:

- How Ofsted contributes to the organisational and the area assessment of each council.
- The changes in our process from 2009.
- Headline messages from our findings in this first year.

Ofsted's contribution 1

- The annual rating of children's services as required by the 2006 Education Act
- Gathering evidence on each local area from across Ofsted, through the **performance profile**
- **Triggered inspection** where outcomes and/or services are poor or faltering
- **Annual unannounced safeguarding inspection**.
- Full inspection of **safeguarding and looked after children services** every three years.

Ofsted's contribution 2

- How the children's services rating contributes to the organisational assessment of the council.
- How outcomes for children and young people contribute to the wider area assessment through reporting on the five Every Child Matters outcomes.
- Ofsted's contribution to the joint inspectorate judgements on an area.

The Performance Profile

- Brings together the findings of inspection and regulation into one place.
- Every inspection counts: the performance profile covers the range of Ofsted's work.
- Several layers: national through to individual inspection reports.
- May be refined, developed and extended over time.

The best performing councils

Characterised by:

- Good or outstanding inspected services and settings.
- Effective work in social care.
- Good or better provision for children and young people whose circumstances may disadvantage them.

Children's services performing adequately

Characterised by:

- Too much early years, primary or secondary school provision often no better than satisfactory.
- Considerable variation in the quality of fostering and adoption services and children's homes.
- Mixed performance across services which support vulnerable children and young people.

In addition:

- In some councils judged overall to be adequate, unannounced inspections of contact, referral and assessment arrangements identified priority actions of sufficient concern to have prevented their annual children's services performance rating being good.

Children's services which perform poorly

Characterised by:

- Serious weaknesses in some aspects of social care provision for children and young people.
- Relatively poor performance on the national indicators for staying safe.
- Weaknesses in some aspects of achievement.

Finally

- Ofsted is committed to evaluating the CAA process in its first year.
- We will evaluate our internal processes for the assessment of children's services and we are keen to learn from your experiences at the regional conferences.
- We will also work with the other inspectorates to evaluate the whole process of CAA and seek to find where improvements can be made.