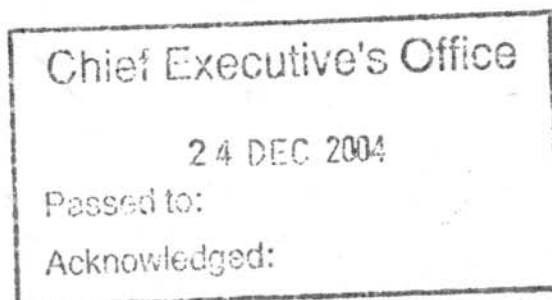


21 December 2004

To all Chief Executives



Dear Colleague

Joint Area Reviews and Corporate Assessment: Provisional Timetable

In the recent consultation material on proposals for joint area reviews of services for children and corporate assessments, we stated our intentions to integrate the management of the two assessments as far as possible.

We are now able to set out the proposed timetable for the assessments beginning in September 2005 and ending in December 2008. This timetable in respect of the joint area reviews must be provisional at this stage since it needs formal approval by the Secretary of State under section 20(1)(a) of the Children Act. This cannot be done until the relevant section of the Children Act comes into force in the New Year.

This timetable has been agreed between the Audit Commission as the inspectorate responsible for the corporate assessments, and those inspectorates principally involved in the joint area reviews – Ofsted; the Commission for Social Care Inspection; and the Healthcare Commission. It has also been subject to consultation with other inspectorates and commissions involved, including HMI Probation who will use the timetable to plan the best match of joint area reviews with the inspection of youth offending teams after September 2005. The timetable has taken account of:

- the overall CPA rating for the council;
- the date of the most recent corporate assessment for the council;
- the CPA scores for education and social care in 2003;
- the dates of the last inspections of council education and children's social care services;
- the latest CSCI performance assessment judgement on children's social care services;

- the latest Ofsted inspection judgement on the effectiveness of the LEA;
- information from the Healthcare Commission;
- the need to secure balanced geographical coverage during the programme.

Before September 2005 we are proposing to conduct three jointly programmed joint area reviews and corporate assessment and one stand alone joint area review. Two of the jointly programmed assessments will be scored to contribute to the 2005 CPA rating of the councils concerned. The involvement of the areas identified for joint area review pilots is still subject to confirmation.

Following approval by the Secretary of State for Education and Skills in respect of the timing of the joint area reviews, we will confirm the timetable in the New Year. This timetable will give precise dates for the reviews to be conducted from September 2005 to March 2006, and thereafter, the period within the year for reviews planned from April 2006 to December 2008.

We intend to review the timetable each December, taking account of overall performance information, including the outcomes of the new annual performance assessments of council services for children. Revisions in respect of joint area reviews will be subject to the approval of the Secretary of State.

Yours sincerely



DAVID BELL
Ofsted



STEVE BUNDRED
Audit Commission

Provisional timetable for joint area reviews and corporate assessments

Spring/Summer 05 pilots (4)

(subject to confirmation)

- 1 Blackburn with Darwen
- 2 Sutton
- 3 Rochdale (rating for CPA)
- 4 West Sussex (rating for CPA)

September - December 05 (12)

- 1 Bournemouth
- 2 Enfield
- 3 Staffordshire
- 4 Stoke-on-Trent
- 5 Slough
- 6 Herefordshire
- 7 Calderdale
- 8 Wirral
- 9 Doncaster
- 10 Stockport
- 11 Windsor & Maidenhead
- 12 Hillingdon

January - March 06 (16)

- 1 Northamptonshire
- 2 Rutland
- 3 Salford
- 4 Trafford
- 5 Hounslow
- 6 Brent
- 7 Blackpool
- 8 Bristol City
- 9 North Somerset
- 10 Milton Keynes
- 11 Lincolnshire
- 12 Dudley
- 13 Wakefield
- 14 Coventry
- 15 Newham
- 16 Hackney

April 06 – March 07 (48)

- 1 Barnet
- 2 Bedfordshire
- 3 Bexley
- 4 Birmingham
- 5 Brighton & Hove
- 6 Bromley
- 7 Buckinghamshire
- 8 Cambridgeshire
- 9 Cheshire
- 10 Croydon
- 11 Cumbria
- 12 Devon
- 13 Ealing
- 14 Gateshead
- 15 Greenwich
- 16 Haringey
- 17 Harrow
- 18 Hartlepool
- 19 Havering
- 20 Isle of Wight
- 21 Isles of Scilly
- 22 Islington
- 23 Kensington & Chelsea
- 24 Kingston Upon Hull
- 25 Kingston Upon Thames
- 26 Manchester
- 27 Medway
- 28 Merton
- 29 Middlesbrough
- 30 Newcastle Upon Tyne
- 31 North East Lincolnshire
- 32 North Tyneside
- 33 North Yorkshire
- 34 Nottingham City
- 35 Oxfordshire
- 36 Peterborough
- 37 Plymouth
- 38 Redbridge
- 39 Rotherham
- 40 Sandwell
- 41 Sefton
- 42 Somerset
- 43 Sunderland
- 44 Swindon
- 45 Thurrock
- 46 Torbay
- 47 Wigan
- 48 Wolverhampton

April 07 - March 08 (48)

- 1 Barnsley
- 2 Bolton
- 3 Bracknell Forest
- 4 Bradford
- 5 Bury
- 6 Camden
- 7 City of London
- 8 Darlington
- 9 Derby City
- 10 Derbyshire
- 11 Dorset
- 12 Durham
- 13 East Sussex
- 14 Gloucestershire
- 15 Halton
- 16 Hammersmith & Fulham
- 17 Hampshire
- 18 Hertfordshire
- 19 Kent
- 20 Kirklees
- 21 Knowsley
- 22 Leeds
- 23 Leicestershire
- 24 Leicester City
- 25 Lewisham
- 26 Liverpool
- 27 Luton
- 28 North Lincolnshire
- 29 Northumberland
- 30 Poole
- 31 Richmond Upon Thames
- 32 Sheffield
- 33 Shropshire
- 34 Solihull
- 35 Southampton
- 36 Southend-On-Sea
- 37 Southwark
- 38 St Helens
- 39 Stockton-On-Tees
- 40 Suffolk
- 41 Surrey
- 42 Tower Hamlets
- 43 Walsall
- 44 Wandsworth
- 45 Warrington
- 46 West Berkshire
- 47 Westminster
- 48 York

April 08 - December 08 (24)

- 1 Barking and Dagenham
- 2 Bath and North East Somerset
- 3 Blackburn with Darwen
- 4 Cornwall
- 5 East Riding of Yorkshire
- 6 Essex
- 7 Lambeth
- 8 Lancashire
- 9 Norfolk
- 10 Nottinghamshire
- 11 Oldham
- 12 Portsmouth
- 13 Reading
- 14 Redcar & Cleveland
- 15 South Gloucestershire
- 16 South Tyneside
- 17 Sutton
- 18 Tameside
- 19 Telford & Wrekin
- 20 Waltham Forest
- 21 Warwickshire
- 22 Wiltshire
- 23 Wokingham
- 24 Worcestershire