

ANNUAL ASSESSMENT OF PERFORMANCE

Please find below an update on the annual assessment of performance for both Education & Children's Services and Adult Social Care for 2009/10.

Children's Services Assessment for Education & Children's Services 2009/10

Ofsted carry out an annual assessment of performance in Education and Children's Services in each local authority, based on performance information and inspections that have taken place during the year. This is called the 'Children's Services Assessment'. It is due for publication on December 10th but is embargoed until then. A brief report will be tabled at Cabinet on 13th December with information for Members about Slough's Children's Services Assessment. The full report will be available on the Ofsted website from December 10th.

Annual Performance Assessment Adult Social Care 2009/10

For the second year running Slough has achieved an overall rating of **Grade 3 - 'Performing Well'**:

'People who use services find that services consistently deliver above minimum requirements.'

'A service that consistently delivers above minimum requirements, is cost-effective and makes contributions to wider outcomes for the community'.

The introduction of the Annual Performance Assessment (APA) of Councils with Social Services responsibilities was first announced by Alan Milburn in 2001. In April 2008/9 the Care Quality Commission was established, to replace the Commission of Social Care Inspection as the regulatory body responsible for the APA, and a new performance assessment framework introduced. New grades and descriptors were applied for the outcome domains and the star ratings replaced with one of 4 new grades. These changes reflect the introduction of a 'harder test', a narrowing of the top band, making the overall achievement of 'performing excellently' more challenging than the previous 'excellent'.

This is the second consecutive year the Council has received a judgement under these changes. There is a requirement upon the statutory director to report the findings and judgement to Cabinet.

The achievements for each of the 7 assessment outcome domains are also consistent with the judgements made in 2008/9. Slough has therefore sustained the performance position as follows:

Delivering Outcomes	Grade Awarded
Improved health and emotional well-being	Performing Well
Improved quality of life	Performing Well
Making a positive contribution	Performing Excellently
Increased choice and control	Performing Well
Freedom from discrimination or harassment	Performing Excellently
Economic well-being	Performing Excellently
Maintaining personal dignity and respect	Performing Well
Overall Rating	Grade 3 Performing Well

The text in **appendix XXXX** provides a headline summary illustrative of the areas in which the Commission believe Slough is 'performing well' or 'excellently'. Actions are being taken to address areas for improvement.

Table 1 below sets out the performance grades and descriptors used by CQC to evaluate Council services.

Grade	Descriptor
Grade 4: (Performing excellently) People who use services find that services deliver well above minimum requirements	A service that overall delivers well above minimum requirements for people, is highly cost-effective and fully contributes to the achievement of wider outcomes for the community.
Grade 3: (Performing well) People who use services find that services consistently deliver above minimum requirements	A service that consistently delivers above minimum requirements for people is cost-effective and makes contributions to wider outcomes for the community.
Grade 2: (Performing adequately) People who use services find that services deliver only minimum requirements	A service that delivers only minimum requirements for people, but is not consistently cost-effective nor contributes significantly to wider outcomes for the community.
Grade 1: (Performing poorly) People who use services find that services do not deliver minimum (performing adequately) requirements	A service that does not deliver minimum requirements for people, is not cost-effective and makes little or no contribution to wider outcomes for the community.