

Latest News

December 2009

Solihull succeeds in first area assessment

The area of Solihull has received positive results following the new Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA).

In the CAA inspection, despite a harder test, the borough of Solihull has officially been recognised as performing well – achieving three out of four points in the new rating system.

The assessment is carried out through the new, independent Oneplace initiative, which looks at how well Solihull's public services are performing. The report combines the views of six independent inspectorates to create a single snapshot of an area, and looks at how important local issues, such as crime, affordable housing and people's health are being tackled – and the prospects for improvement.

The assessment pointed out:

- 88% of Solihull residents are very satisfied with the area and the public services they receive –higher than the national average
- The Council works well with partners to achieve success e.g. ensuring Solihull is a safe place to live and standards of housing improving
- Solihull residents continue to enjoy good health
- Solihull benefits from relatively low crime rates – local public services work well together and deliver good results, results the public is noticing
- Incidents of antisocial behaviour in the north of the borough has been successfully reduced
- Outcomes for children and young people are good
- The Council has achieved beacon status for its work with partners on digital inclusion
- The Council is providing good services for unaccompanied asylum seeking children

- Housing services provided by Solihull Community Housing - which is rated excellent - is continuing to make good progress

The assessment also recognises the Solihull regeneration partnership programme; although having slowed by the recession is continuing to deliver.

Alongside the area assessment, the Audit Commission has also published its organisational assessments for councils and fire authorities. These assessments feed into the overall area assessment but focus on the performance and value for money of individual public services, as well as how effectively they work together.

In Solihull this means both the Council and West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority receive a three out of four rating – performing well.

Councillor Ken Meeson, Leader of the Council, said: “I am delighted with the outcome of this inaugural assessment. It is great news that the borough of Solihull has been recognised as being committed to providing high quality services and the best possible value for its residents. It is a positive endorsement of all the work we are doing, and proof that we are moving in the right direction. This was a harder test – Oneplace has raised the bar significantly since the last inspection, and we have risen to the challenge and continued to improve our performance.

“The assessment acknowledges the majority of Solihull residents are very satisfied with the area. This could not have been achieved without good planning and support from councillor colleagues and the hard work of our staff across all departments. Despite the results we will not be complacent – we remain focussed on our priorities, continue to listen to our communities and ensure we work with our partners to provide the people of Solihull with high quality services and value for money,” he adds.

The Oneplace website brings together the results of the new CAA and is written for residents.

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