

# Commissioner assessment guide

## **1.1 The aims and principles of the review of commissioners**

**This document sets out the aims and principles of the assessment process for the commissioners of health and adult social care**

## **1.1 Commissioning by Councils and Primary Care Trusts (PCTs)**

Our understanding is that both PCTs and Councils in their commissioning capacity will ensure that:

- Their assessment of current and projected future needs is reflected in the way they commission;
- People who use services have good information so that they can make better, more informed choices about the care they receive;
- People can make decisions about their care, regardless of whether they are entitled to financial support from the state;
- Assessments are carried out and opportunities are given to people to control their care;
- A range of services are available that are of high quality, improve outcomes for the people using them, and represent value for money;
- They work in partnership with people who use services, their carers and families, and other stakeholders;
- They monitor and review commissioning decisions and services in relation to improving health and wellbeing outcomes and, where appropriate, make changes.

### **What are the principles of the review for commissioners?**

Commissioner assessment methodology is built around the following key principles:

- outcomes focused, assessing the areas that are important to people who use adult social care and health services, their carers and the public;
- respects the local autonomy of Councils and PCTs;
- based on evidence that reflects local priorities and is used locally;
- uses professional judgement;
- proportionate, sustainable, transparent, and adds value; and
- robust quality assurance processes.

### **What are the aims of reviews of commissioners?**

The assessment of health and adult social care (ASC) performance by the regulator is our contribution to the improvement agenda for people who use services and their carers. We aim to:

- promote better outcomes, through continuous improvement in the quality of health and ASC, for people who use services and their carers;
- provide information about the performance of Councils and PCTs in providing health and ASC to people who use services, carers and the wider community which they serve;
- encourage organisations to seek improvement and provide value for money;
- explore whether there is effective partnership working between the Council, other relevant council departments, the NHS, the third sector and independent sector service providers; and
- assess the contribution of PCT and ASC to the work of the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP). This may be demonstrated through progress against Local Area Agreement (LAA) targets, any other local targets outside the LAA and the implementation of the outcomes from the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA).