

LGA Fire Services Forum

Fire and Rescue Performance Assessment 2007 Results

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11 April 2008



Presentation coverage

- Audit Commission's Fire and Rescue Performance Assessment results and findings for 2007
 - Direction of travel
 - Use of resources
 - Service assessment
- Overview of findings and results
- Questions and answer session



Key messages





- All fire services have improved the safety of local communities since our last assessment:
 - Better at preventing fires
 - Better at reducing their impact
 - Improved understanding of who is at greatest risk
 - Better at protecting the most vulnerable
- However, there is more to be done that could make local communities safer

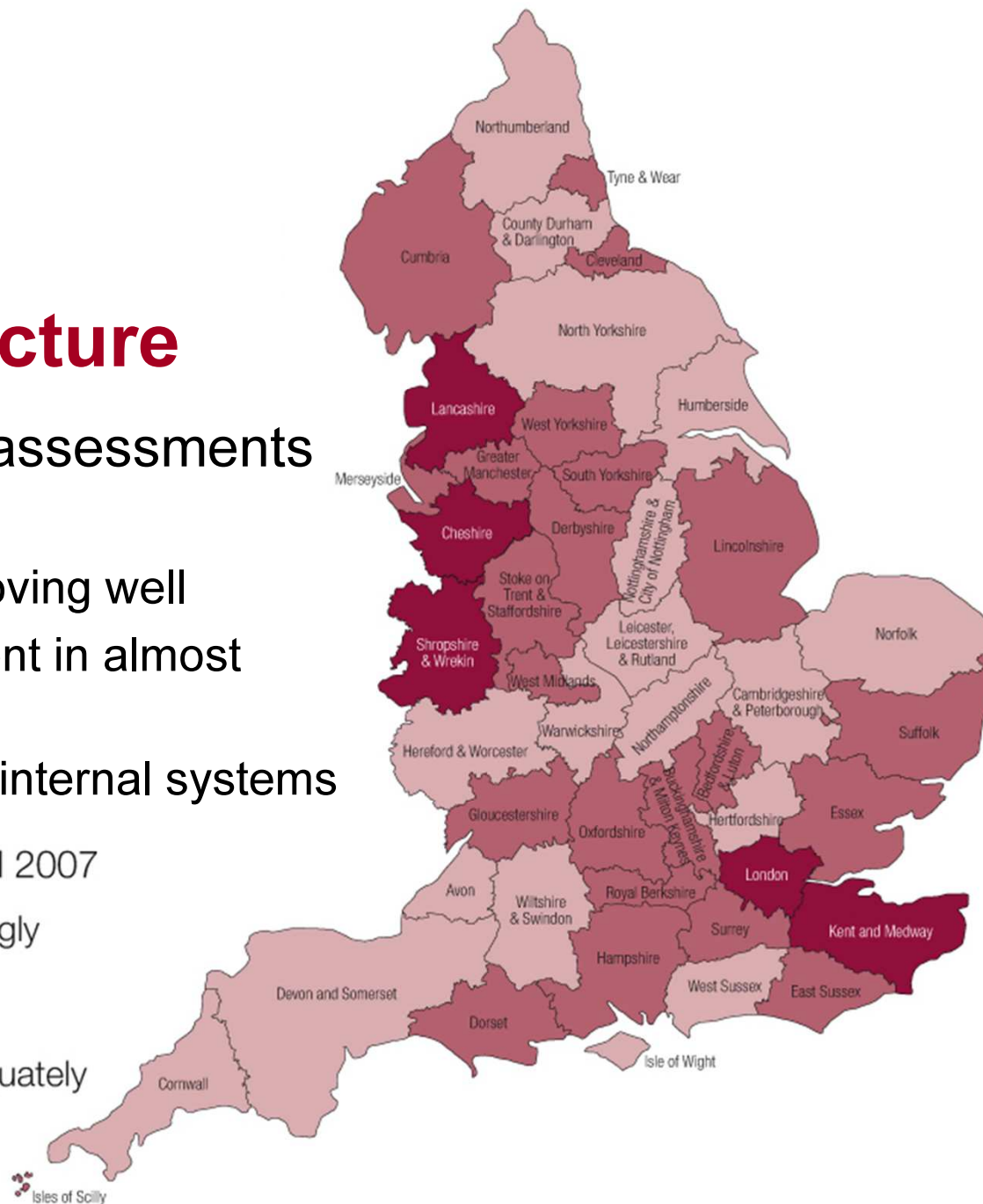


The national picture

- Direction of travel assessments show:
 - Over half are improving well
 - Rate of improvement in almost a third has slowed
 - Often due to weak internal systems

Direction of travel 2007

-  Improving strongly
-  Improving well
-  Improving adequately
-  Not improving



Key messages

- Fire services show great commitment to delivering imaginative campaigns to improve community safety
 - Not matched by rigorous evaluation – how do you know it works?
 - 45% of services can not demonstrate the cost/benefit of their work

| Direction of travel category | 2006 | Change | | 2007 |
|------------------------------|-----------|--------|------|-----------|
| Improving strongly | 2 | ↓ 2 | ↑ 5 | 5 |
| Improving well | 30 | ↔ 12 | ↔ 13 | 23 |
| Improving adequately | 15 | ↔ 5 | ↑ 8 | 18 |
| No improvement | 0 | | | 0 |
| Total fire services | 47 | | | 46 |

Key
 ↓ Down 1 category ↔ No change ↑ Up 1 category



Key messages

- Partnership working is now a key feature
 - Contribution to wider community outcomes
 - In high performing areas fire services are now leading partnerships
- Business processes are improving, two thirds have improved their approach which enables:
 - IRMPs to focus on the needs of local communities and national priorities
 - Improved consultation at neighbourhood level
- But evaluation of work and data quality still have room for significant improvement



Key messages

- Little improvement in fire services use of resources
 - 80 per cent are performing well and 83 per cent retained the same score as last year

| Use of resources category | 2006 | Change | | 2007 |
|---------------------------|------|--------|------|------|
| Performing strongly | 3 | | | 4 |
| Performing well | 37 | ↓ 3 | ↔ 33 | 37 |
| Adequate performance | 7 | | ↔ 3 | 6 |
| Inadequate performance | 0 | | | 0 |
| Total fire services | 47 | | | 47 |

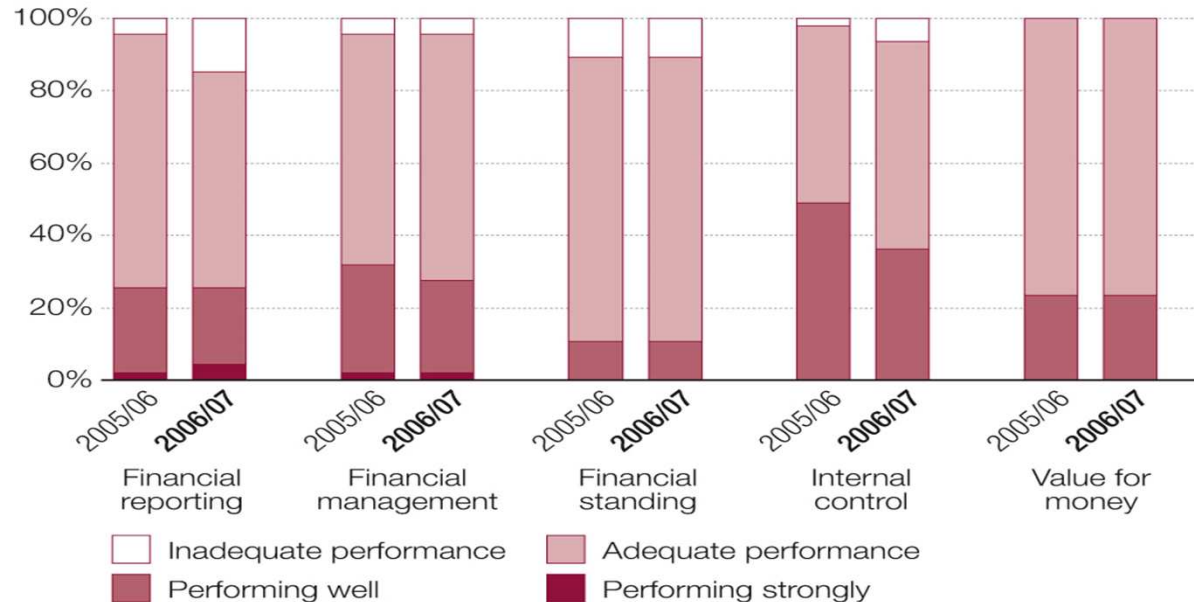
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Key messages

- High level little change, but
 - Financial management and internal controls are deteriorating
 - Value for money remains unchanged with no service

Percentage of fire services



Key messages

- The lack of a diverse workforce significantly reduces the service's ability to reach and educate different communities about the risks from fire
- No fire service demonstrates good practice in its approach to equalities and diversity
 - Fire authority members need to improve their leadership in this area
 - Fire services have a long way to go, and could learn more from their public sector partners

