

CONFIDENTIAL: EMBARGOED UNTIL 30 NOVEMBER 2006

Mr Cliff Brown
Director of Adult and Community
Services
Darlington Borough Council
Vicarage Road
DARLINGTON
DL1 1JW

22 October 2006

Dear Mr Brown

Performance Ratings for Adult Social Services: 30 November 2006

I am writing to inform you of the 2006 performance star ratings and judgements for your council's adult social services. The performance (star) rating will contribute the 'adults' judgement to the council's overall CPA rating to be announced by the Audit Commission in February 2007.

a) Judgements and Rating

The judgements and rating for your council are as follows:

b) Social Care Services for adults

Serving people well?	Most
Capacity for improvement?	Excellent

c) Adult Social Care Star Rating

Your social services performance rating is 3 stars.

Three star rating entitles the council to increased freedoms in the use of grants, and to a proportional programme of inspection and monitoring.

The Record of Performance Assessment provides the basis of our judgements about your council's performance and trajectory for improvement. The level of in-year monitoring by CSCI is

We welcome your feedback to help us improve our service.
Please feel free to contact the Customer Service Unit on 0845 015 0120

proportionate to performance. Councils with low star ratings or councils deemed to be coasting can expect a higher level of monitoring.

d) Further Changes to Star Ratings

Current CSCI policy on star ratings is that they will be published each year, and for the most part will not be changed during the year. For councils with a zero star rating, a higher rating may be awarded later if robust and substantial evidence of performance improvement becomes available. Conversely, if serious concerns about performance arise during the year, a council's rating may be adjusted to zero stars, and special monitoring arrangements put in place.

e) Representations

The letter issued to councils by the Chief Inspector on 16 July 2006 explained the representations procedure for our adult judgements. This indicated that you would have the opportunity at this stage to make a formal representation.

Councils should ensure their representation is clearly headed according to the judgement in question, be no more than 2,500 words maximum and ensure it can be linked to the published standards and criteria.

All notifications of intent to make representation, and actual written representations should be sent to CSCI for the attention of Louise Guss, Representations Officer, via her PA Annett Hegna using one of the following methods:

Email: annett.hegna@csci.gsi.gov.uk

Fax: 01484 770 421

You can also contact the Representations Office via telephone number: 0191 233 3501

Council intention to make written Representations by 4.00pm on 25 Oct

Council confirmed written Representations received 10.30am on 30 Oct
by

f) Further Information and Publication

The new performance ratings and underlying judgements will be published on 30 November. The record of performance assessment for your council and a copy of this letter will also be available on our website at

www.csci.org.uk/council_star_ratings/councils_star_rating/default.htm on 30 November 2006.

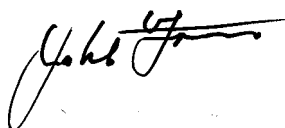
We will send you an e-mail containing the embargoed star ratings for all councils on 29 November. Both this letter and the e-mail setting out the star ratings for all councils are sent to give you time to prepare local briefings - for example, to handle press enquiries. If you need help or advice on dealing with the media the CSCI press team, Sharon Ward, Michelle Doyle, Andy Keast-Marriott and Ray Veasey are available to assist. Their contact numbers are:

0207 979 2089/2090/2093/2094.

Any questions about your star rating that are not answered by the guidance, or by the contents of this letter should be addressed in the first instance to your Business Relationship Manager.

Access to the Performance Indicators website which is password protected will be issued to you at midnight on 27 November with instructions.

Yours sincerely



JOHN FRASER
Regional Director
North East Region

Copy: Ms Ada Burns, Chief Executive, Darlington Borough Council