

Suffolk Fire Authority

Fire and rescue performance assessment 2007

Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) for Fire and Rescue Authorities was introduced in 2005 when each authority was given a corporate assessment rating of either excellent, good, fair, weak or poor. Inspectors looked at issues like staff training, budget management and the way the service works within the community to make it safer and prevent fires from happening in the first place.

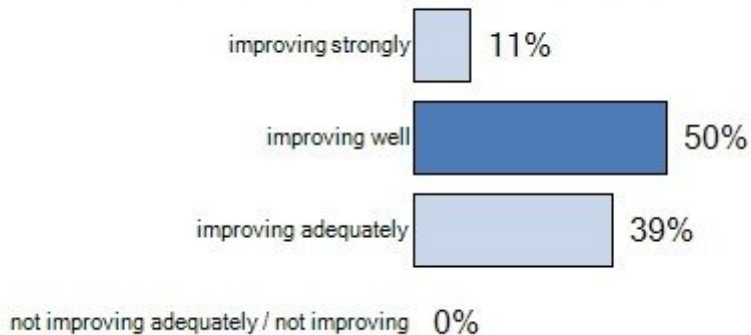
Additional elements give an overall assessment of services including how the authority performs operationally

Overall performance for this fire and rescue authority

This is an authority that is improving well having demonstrated Fair overall performance in 2005.

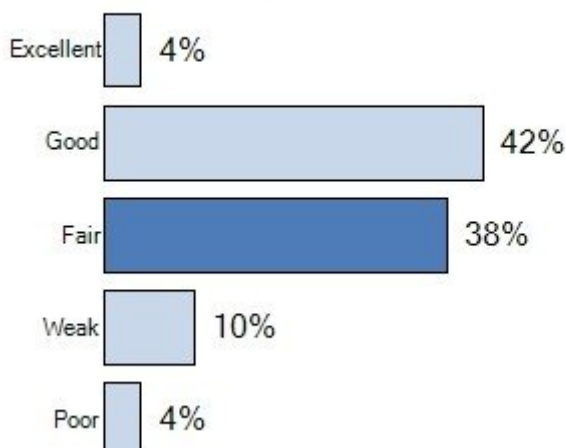


Direction of travel against other authorities



Fair

Performance against other authorities



In addition to Fire CPA 2005, fire and rescue authorities were assessed under the 2007 performance framework on three elements:

- What progress Suffolk Fire Authority has made in the last year – direction of travel
- How Suffolk Fire Authority manages its finances and provides value for money – use of resources
- How Suffolk Fire Authority delivers its fire and rescue service – service assessment

The use of resources and service assessment are scored on the following scale:

- 1 = Inadequate performance – below minimum requirements
- 2 = Adequate performance – only at minimum requirements
- 3 = Performing well – consistently above minimum requirements
- 4 = Performing strongly – well above minimum requirements

Direction of travel

What progress has Suffolk Fire Authority made in the last year

Direction of travel	2006	2007
This assessment indicates the progress being made, or otherwise, to achieve improvement.	improving adequately	improving well

The following summary has been provided to support the 2007 direction of travel assessment:

Suffolk Fire and Rescue Authority is improving well and performing strongly across a range of key indicators and represents excellent value for money. It is supporting the delivery of local priorities and national framework targets. There is clear evidence of an improved focus on targeting activity to meet the needs of vulnerable communities and to address specific risks. This is being achieved both by the Service and through some good, effective partnership arrangements. Strong commitment to community safety activities is delivering good and improved outcomes for vulnerable groups. Strategic and political leadership continues to be strong. There is a clear vision to make Suffolk the safest county and this is supported by robust plans. Target setting has been sharpened over the past year and investment made to improve and embed performance management. In year investment in internal support functions has improved capacity. Although a keen partner, partnership working through the Regional Management Board is recognised by all partners as not yet adding value.

Use of resources

How Suffolk Fire Authority manages its finances and provides value for money

Use of resources	2006	2007
This assessment looks at financial accounting and reporting arrangements, how well the Authority plans and manages its finances and whether the Authority achieves value for money.	3	3

This use of resources judgement is drawn from five individual judgements provided by the Authority's appointed auditor:

Auditor judgements	2007
Financial reporting	2
Financial management	3
Financial standing	2
Internal control	3
Value for money	3

Service assessment

How Suffolk Fire Authority delivers its fire and rescue service

Service assessment	2006	2007
The overall service assessment is the Authority's performance in delivering the fire and rescue service and is constructed from two elements: performance indicators (PIs) and the OASD.	3	3

The following summarises the operational assessment of service delivery:

Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service is performing adequately in risk analysis, prevention and protection and operational preparedness. The Service uses risk analysis data to good effect, but there is no overarching risk management policy in place which makes it difficult to audit and review this area. The Service has established good interactive relationships with other agencies and the local community for prevention and protection purposes, but needs to complete some of its policies in order to formalise arrangements in this area. The Service is adequately prepared operationally, and the provision of operational risk critical information to firefighters is a particular strength in this area. Call management and incident support arrangements meet the needs of the Service effectively. It is also performing well in emergency response. A great deal of work is in progress and it is expected to deliver improvements in service delivery once completed. The corporate management team is clearly committed to the delivery of an effective and efficient service and has a good understanding of the Service's current level of performance.

CPA 2005

How Suffolk Fire Authority performed in 2005

CPA 2005	2005
We assessed the Authority on the way it was run and the delivery of its services. Our corporate assessment did not give an opinion on how well the fire and rescue service responded to emergency incidents. The assessment provided a baseline measurement that helps fire and rescue authorities focus on improvement. Fire and Rescue CPA 2005 was scored on the scale Poor/Weak/Fair/Good/Excellent.	Fair

Please visit the Audit Commission website (www.audit-commission.gov.uk) for the full version of this scorecard.