

Audit Commission

Presentation



MODERNISING PUBLIC SERVICES AND MODERNISING AUDIT

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Our Presentation

- Modernising
 - Public Services
 - Local Government
 - National Health Service
- Developing a Modern Audit



Modernising Public Services

WHY?

- Big variations in quality of delivery
- Some failing services/local authorities
- Some major issues in health service
- Community needs not always priority
- Insufficient partnership working
- Traditional structures = barrier to improvement

Modernising Public Services

KEY INITIATIVES – LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- 2000 – ‘Best Value’ - Review all services in 5 years
 - Emphasis on performance management
 - Continuous improvement
 - Inspection regime
- 2003 – Comprehensive Performance Assessments
 - Annual Updates
 - Improvement Plans
- 2004 – Statement of Internal Controls

Modernising Public Services

KEY INITIATIVES NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE 2000

- Controls assurance
- NHS Plan
- More hospitals and beds
- More staff
- Joined up health and social care
- Performance targets
- Patient involvement
- Inspection regime



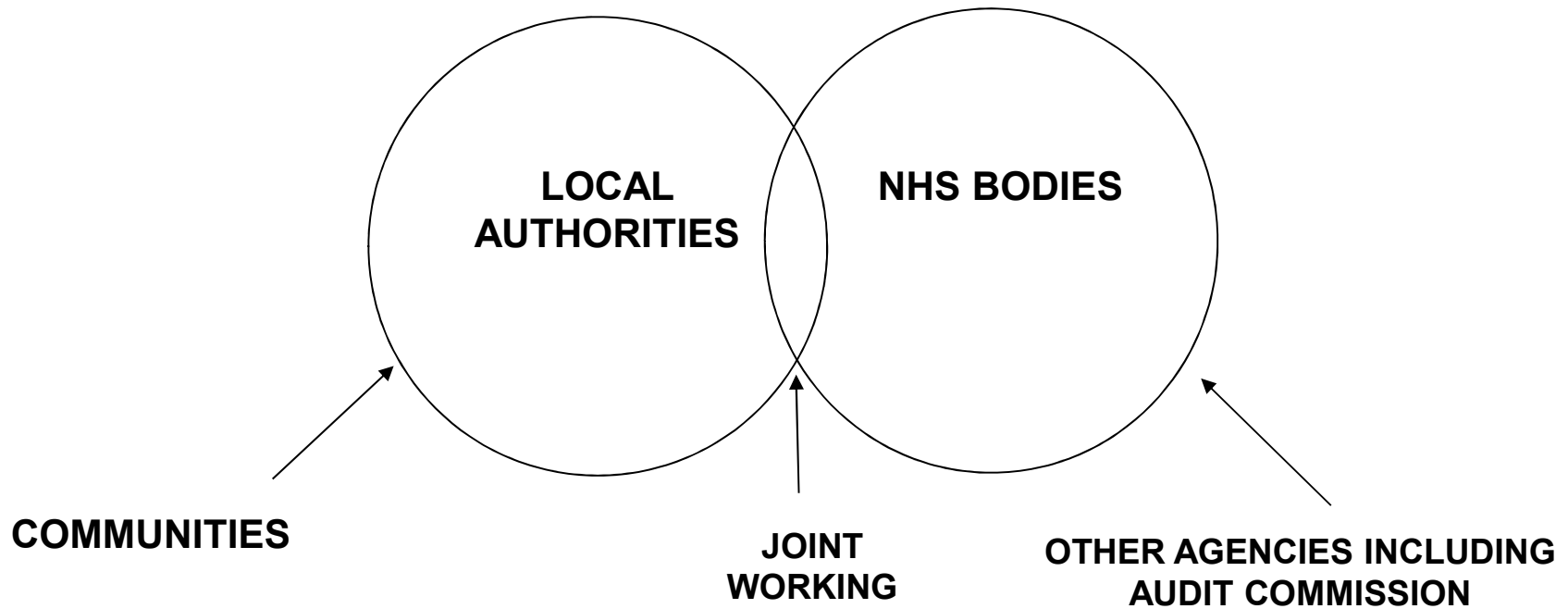
Modernising Public Services

MAJOR EMERGING ISSUES

- Capacity
 - Resources limited
 - Joint working required
 - Community planning
 - Outsourcing
 - Viability of discretionary services
- Community Consultation
- Performance Management & Prioritisation

Modernising Public Services

FORCES FOR IMPROVEMENT



Modernising the Audit

WHY?

- Response to the agenda to 'Modernise Public Services'
- Contribute to improvement
- Maintain high standards of stewardship
- Apply same principles to ourselves

Modernising the Audit

AUDIT COMMISSION PRIORITIES

1. Assuring value for money and stewardship
2. Measuring performance
3. Supporting local improvement
4. Focus on users and diversity
5. Supporting capacity improvements
6. Minimising the burden of regulation

Modernising the Audit

TRANSLATING PRIORITIES INTO ACTION

- Emphasis on risk assessment
 - Lower inputs —————> More impact
 - Reduced audit fees (20% or €36m)
 - Working with other regulators:-
 - Education Inspectors
 - Health & Social Care Inspectors
 - Welfare Benefit Inspectors
 - Housing Inspectors
- etc.

Modernising the Audit

KEY AREAS OF ACTIVITY – PERFORMANCE

- Monitor delivery of NHS Plan
- Comprehensive Performance Assessments in local government
- Joint working

Modernising the Audit

KEY AREAS OF ACTIVITY – REGULARITY

- Financial statements
 - New approach
 - High level appraisal
 - Focused work only where needed
- Statements of Internal Control
- Key Themes e.g. Financial Management

Modernised Audit

OUTCOMES

1. Audit meets international audit standards
2. Contributes to public sector modernisation
3. Reduced public expenditure on fees
4. Improved relevance and quality
5. Fewer staff