

London Borough of Harrow

Confirmation of Direction of Travel Assessment - 2008

Direction of Travel Judgement

This is an authority that is:

improving well

Direction of Travel Narrative

What progress has the authority made in the last year?

Harrow is improving well. The rate of improvement in performance indicators has accelerated and is above the national average, with two thirds improving over the past year. Performance has improved significantly in housing, recycling, composting and use of resources. The Council has improved in priority areas such as children's services and housing benefits. Adult social care services now have promising prospects and good progress has been made supporting carers. More progress needs to be made in services for people with learning disabilities, increasing resident satisfaction and access to services. Strengthening partnerships work well to address local needs. For example, teenage pregnancy rates have reduced significantly and a jointly funded police team is a visible presence in the town centre. Levels of crime are low and fear of crime reducing. Effective action has reduced costs and increased financial reserves. Value for money is good. The Council is realistic and ambitious about outcomes. Decision-making is well-informed and favours prudent, longer term strategic solutions. Governance and leadership are strong. The council has now focused its resources, which is enabling it to deliver its priorities.