



**Report of: Corporate Director of Children's Services**

<b>Health and Wellbeing Board</b>	<b>Date: 18 October 2017</b>	<b>Ward(s): All</b>
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## **SUBJECT: Joint Targeted Area Inspections**

### **1. Synopsis**

- 1.1 In 2016, a programme of joint targeted area inspections (JTAI) was launched. These short, focused inspections are carried out on a multi-agency basis, led by Ofsted and involving HMIC, the Care Quality Commission and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation.
- 1.2 This report outlines what the JTAI is and what it will involve for Health and Wellbeing Board member organisations.

### **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 To note the report.
- 2.2 To consider how Health and Wellbeing Board member organisations can prepare for a future JTAI.

### **3. Joint Targeted Area Inspections**

- 3.1 The JTAI is a new inspection framework for evaluating services for vulnerable children and young people and sits alongside the existing Single Inspection Framework (SIF). Islington Council's Children's Services was inspected under the SIF in May 2017 and received a positive outcome.

The inspection is carried out jointly by Ofsted, the Care Quality Commission (CQC), Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP). All four inspectorates will jointly assess how the local authority, police, probation, health and youth offending services are working together to identify, support and protect vulnerable children and young people. Inspectors will carry out a deep dive investigation of the response to a specific issue and evaluate children's experiences against the full range of criteria. The inspection report will include narrative findings and set out what local partners are doing well and their areas for development and innovative and effective practice for others to learn from. This inspection is unannounced.

- 3.2 A number of local areas are chosen to be inspected against the selected deep dive theme. Previous JTAs have covered domestic abuse including victims of domestic abuse and adult perpetrators (February to August 2016) and children at risk of child sexual exploitation (CSE) (September 2016 to March 2017). When all inspections are complete, an overview report is published to highlight learning and good practice. From May to December 2017, JTAs will focus on children living with neglect. The guidance can be found [here](#).

### What would the next JTA involve?

- 3.3 The inspection team will usually comprise of three inspectors from each of Ofsted, HMIC and the CQC, and two from HMI Probation. An Ofsted social care HMI will lead the inspection.
- 3.4 Notification of inspection will take place on a Tuesday before 9:30am by the Lead Inspector contacting the Director of Children's Services (DCS). The other inspectorates contact their relevant agencies. Notification will be nine working days before the inspectors come on site. During those nine days, the following information will need to be supplied before the inspectors arrive:
- Child-level data
  - A list of children for the deep dive theme
  - Case file documents
  - Other information to support the inspection including a joint report by the local partnership on the evaluation of children's experiences.
- 3.5 The inspection will use the following information to evaluate children's experiences:

#### Case sampling and tracking

- Inspectors will use sampling to evaluate the response to all forms of child abuse, neglect and exploitation at the point of identification, notification and referral (the 'front door') and to triangulate evidence across the inspection, including that for the deep dive theme; they will undertake both multi-agency and single-agency sampling.

#### Observation of practice and interviews

- Inspectors will gather evidence by observing a range of meetings (e.g. a family group conference; the work of independent reviewing officer; and the work of child protection conference chairs), and triangulate evidence by meeting with children, parents and carers and talking to practitioners and/or managers (in person or by phone), including:
  - The Local Authority (LA) Chief Executive
  - Director of Children's Services (DCS)
  - Lead member for children's services
  - Head of social care
  - Chair and Business Manager of the LSCB
  - Police superintendent responsible for child protection and safeguarding
  - Supervisor of the investigative/multi-agency team relating to the deep dive theme
  - MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub) / CRU (Criminal Referral Unit) police lead
  - MAPP (Multi-agency public protection arrangements) chair
  - Youth Offending Team manager
  - Senior representative(s) of the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG(s))
  - Safeguarding leads for the Community Rehabilitation Company and the National Probation Service

#### Information from individual agencies

- Inspectors will request information from: the local authority, LSCB, the police force, the national probation service and community rehabilitation company/ companies, the youth offending team and health partners in order to understand the work of the different agencies.

- 3.6 Time spent in Islington would be over a three-week period. At the end of week three, the inspectors will meet with senior leaders of the local partnership for a feedback meeting and share their key findings. Subsequent weeks are concerned with writing the 'letter of findings' and quality assurance processes. Inspectors will review evidence against the evaluation criteria, and identify areas of good practice, development and priority action for the partnership and present their findings. The letter of findings will be sent to the local partnership in week nine. The findings will be in the form of a narrative rather than

graded judgements and will include strengths and areas for development and any areas of priority action.

## 4. Implications

### 4.1 Financial Implications:

There are no financial implications from this report.

### 4.2 Legal Implications:

JTAs are carried out under section 20 of the Children Act 2004. JTAs are an inspection of multi-agency arrangements for the response to all forms of child abuse, neglect and exploitation, including the quality and impact of assessment, planning and decision making and the leadership and management of this work.

### 4.3 Environmental Implications

None

### 4.4 Resident Impact Assessment:

The council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, and to advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations, between those who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it (section 149 Equality Act 2010). The council has a duty to have due regard to the need to remove or minimise disadvantages, take steps to meet needs, in particular steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities, and encourage people to participate in public life. The council must have due regard to the need to tackle prejudice and promote understanding.

A Resident Impact Assessment has not been completed. This report outlines a statutory regulatory process.

## 5. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

5.1 JTAs look at the system for supporting vulnerable children and young people. As with any other local authority in England, Islington should expect that it will be chosen for an inspection.

**Background papers:** None

**Appendices:** None

**Signed by:**



10/10/2017

Corporate Director of Children's Services

Date

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