



Joint Targeted Area Inspections: An overview

What are Joint Targeted Area Inspections?

- Joint inspection across children's services, police, health, and other key partners including education and probation, focused on a specific theme (5 frameworks as at October 2024)
- Carried out under section 20 of the Children's Act 2004 by the following inspectorates:
 - Ofsted
 - Care Quality Commission (CQC)
 - His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS)

What are the key principles?

- Looking at activity from last 6 months
- Following a child's journey, where multiple agencies are involved in responding to their needs, including case tracking

What are the current JTAI themes?

There are 5 current frameworks for inspection. These are:

- [The multi-agency response to children and families who need help \(early help\)](#)
- [The multi-agency response to the criminal exploitation of children](#)
- [The multi-agency response to identification of initial need and risk \(front door\)](#)
- [The multi-agency response to serious youth violence](#)
- [The multi-agency response to children who are the victims of domestic abuse](#)

Early help theme focus

- Do agencies work effectively together so that children and their families get the right help at the right time?
- Is there a shared strategic vision for helping families early?
- Is this well understood across the local partnership, at all operational levels, and by families and communities?
- How effectively do leaders understand local need and engage with families, their neighbourhoods and communities to deliver an appropriate local offer?
- Do leaders understand how local need changes over time, and do they update their offer of help to respond to these changes effectively?
- Does the local safeguarding partnership monitor and evaluate the work of statutory partners effectively?
- Does the workforce have the appropriate skills, knowledge and capacity to support children and their families effectively?

Criminal exploitation theme focus

Inspectors will evaluate the multi-agency arrangements for:

- responding to all forms of child criminal exploitation at the point of identification
- assessment, planning and decision-making in response to notifications and referrals of children at risk of criminal exploitation, or who have been criminally exploited
- protecting, supporting and caring for children who are at risk or have been harmed by criminal exploitation, including the support and care of children looked after and/or care leavers
- preventing child criminal exploitation, including through awareness-raising and use of disruption activity (Disruption involves strategies and tactics designed by the police and other safeguarding partners to reduce risks to vulnerable children and interrupt the activity of those who are seeking to exploit them)
- identifying children at risk of sexual exploitation and the multi-agency response

Inspectors will also evaluate how effectively the local partnership, through its multi-agency safeguarding arrangements (MASA), monitors, promotes, coordinates and evaluates the work of the statutory partners.

Front door theme focus

- how effectively the front doors of individual agencies identify and respond to initial need and risk
- the effectiveness of the multi-agency safeguarding hub (MASH) (or equivalent)
- how effectively each agency contributes to the multi-agency response, including early decision-making across early help, child in need and child protection
- how effectively the local partnership, through its multi-agency safeguarding arrangements (MASA), monitors, promotes, coordinates and evaluates the work of the statutory partners. The lead representatives of the safeguarding partners are the local authority chief executive, the accountable officer of a clinical commissioning group (CCG) and a chief officer of police
- the impact of leaders and managers on practice with children and families in relation to the front door
- the timeliness of this work and the impact of the local area's actions to improve the multi-agency response to children in need of help and protection

Serious Youth Violence theme focus:

How partnerships:

- collate and share information and intelligence to understand risk and the implications of serious youth violence within the local community/ies
- use this information and engage with communities to inform their decision-making in relation to interventions and commissioning services
- engage meaningfully with children, parents and carers to understand their needs and views
- develop and implement approaches to prevention, including the role of education providers and multi-agency interventions in places and spaces to address risk and improve safety for children
- support the workforce, so they have the skills, the knowledge and the right working conditions to help and protect children
- evaluate and oversee their responses to serious youth violence

SYV theme continued:

How partners intervene with individual/groups of children affected by SYV and criminal exploitation to:

- respond to all forms of serious youth violence and child criminal exploitation at the point of identification
- assess, plan and make decisions in response to notifications and referrals of children at risk of/subject to serious youth violence and/or criminal exploitation
- protect, support and care for children who are at risk or have been harmed by serious youth violence and/or criminal exploitation, including looked after children

SYV continued

Additionally with respect to intervention in places and spaces, inspectors will consider:

- what information and intelligence partners are using to inform their decisions about interventions in places and spaces
- whether this is a partnership approach, what methodology/approach they use and what the aim of the intervention(s) is
- how partners consult and engage children and communities in relation to this work
- how partners are making sure that children and places and spaces are safer
- what the outcome is and how partners evaluate their interventions

Domestic Abuse theme focus

Inspectors will evaluate the multi-agency arrangements for:

- responding to children who are victims of domestic abuse, at the point of identification
- assessment, planning and decision-making in response to notifications and referrals of children who are victims of domestic abuse
- protecting, supporting and caring for children who are at risk of, or who have been victims of, domestic abuse
- preventing children from becoming victims of domestic abuse

How are KRSCP preparing for a JTAI?

KRSCP hold quarterly preparation meetings with representation across the key partners. These meetings are chaired by the Director of Children's Social Care, AfC. The preparation includes:

- Development of a detailed inspection plan ensuring it's regularly refreshed according to available frameworks
- Sharing learning from others' experience of JTAI
- Self-assessment and dry runs, with refinement of planning according to learning through experience

How might you be involved?

During the inspection there are a range of different activities both off site, and during the fieldwork in week 3. To support these you may be involved in:

- Preparation of data and supporting information outlined in Annex A
- Contributing to audits and a multiagency audit workshop
- Observation of your practice
- Meeting with inspectors, and/or supporting children and families to meet with them
- Sharing feedback on your involvement with the inspection

How will you be supported during JTAI?

- Supported to be involved in the inspection activities as applicable
- Regular coordinated communications around the inspection timetable, lines of enquiry, emerging themes, and feedback
- Support from your line manager and senior leadership

What is the timeline?

Pre-inspection activity:

- Inspectorates share and review their analysis of information about the local area

Activities in week 1 (off site)

- Notification (10 working days before fieldwork begins)
- Set-up discussion
- Information request (details set out in Annex A of relevant theme)
- Selecting children's cases to audit
- Planning and pre-inspection analysis

Activities in week 2 (off site)

- Local area evaluates experiences of children (case audits)
- Off-site analysis
- Off-site meetings with local agencies
- Creating the fieldwork timetable

Activities in week 3 (fieldwork)

- Inspection team meetings
- Meetings with senior leaders
- Gathering and evaluating evidence (including through case tracking, case sampling, observations of practice and meetings with practitioners)

Sharing outcomes:

- Draft letter sent to local partnership to review factual accuracy (15 working days after fieldwork). The letter will set out any strengths, areas for improvement and areas for priority action.
- DCS has 9 working days to bring together the partnership's comments (24 days after the fieldwork)
- Final version of the letter sent to the local partnership, pre-publication, under embargo (31 days after the fieldwork)
- Letter published (34 days after the fieldwork)
- If necessary, the inspectorates may require a written statement of proposed action that responds to the findings. If applicable this must be produced by the partnership within 70 days of receiving the final letter.

Local experience of JTAI

- JTAI of the multi-agency response to the identification of initial need and risk in [Richmond July 2024](#)

Examples of others' inspection findings

- JTAI of the multi-agency response to the identification of initial need and risk in [Sutton](#)
- JTAI of the multi-agency response to the criminal exploitation of children in [Kirklees](#)
- JTAI of the multi-agency response to children and families who need help in [Surrey](#)
- JTAI of the multi-agency response to serious youth violence in [Merton](#)

Further questions?

Please contact Sarah Bennett, KRSCP Coordinator at

sarah.bennett@kingrichlscb.org.uk

07890 912007