Gateshead Safeguarding Children Partnership

Joint Area Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI) Guidance

Date: September 2024

Focus: The current JTAI theme: Domestic Abuse

1. Introduction – What is a JointTargeted Area Inspection (JTAI)?

1.1 Ofsted, the Care Quality Commission (CQC) and HM Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) and His Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP) together undertake a programme of Joint Targeted Area Inspections (JTAIs) in a local area.

1.2 JTAI is an inspection of the local area arrangements and how leaders, managers and practitioners work together across the local authority, police, health providers and partner services to safeguard children and promote their welfare.

2. How much notice will we receive for a JTAI inspection?

2.1 A JTAI can take place at any time – there are no advance notification dates.

2.2 There will be a notification period for the local partnership of **ten working days** before the inspectors come on site. This is usually a Monday.

2.3 During that time the inspectors will be provided with child- level data; a list of children for the deep dive theme; case file documents and other information to support the inspection.

3. What are the JTAI themes?

3.1 There are currently two themes of JTAI inspection. One static theme that is always a possibility evaluates **the multi-agency response to identification of initial need and risk (or the 'front door' of child protection).**

3.2 The second theme looks at a particular theme or cohort of children and changes every six months. Currently, this theme is **the multi-agency response to children, including unborn children, who are victims of domestic abuse.** This theme was announced in September 2024.

3.3 Previous 'deep dive' themes have been around:

- Multi-agency response to serious youth violence
- Multi-agency response to identification of initial need and risk.
- Multi-agency response to the criminal exploitation of children.
- Multi-agency response to children and families who need help.

3.6 Previous inspection reports can be found at Inspection of children's services – ADCS

4. Focus of the Domestic Abuse JTAI Inspection

4.1 The following inspectors will carry out the JTAI inspection for the Domestic Abuse theme:

- Ofsted – three social care inspectors (one will be the lead inspector).
- Ofsted – one education inspector.
- Care Quality Commission (CQC) – three inspectors

- His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) – three inspectors
- His Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP) – two inspectors
- A Senior His Majesty's Inspector (HMI) from Ofsted will be the quality assurance manager.

4.2 All inspectorates will jointly assess how well the **police**, **children's social care**, **relevant health services** and **probation** (but not youth justice) work together - and with education and early years services and the voluntary and community sector - to identify and respond to children who are victims of domestic abuse. 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

4.3 Inspectors will also evaluate how effectively the local partnership, through its MASA, monitors, promotes, coordinates and evaluates the work of the statutory partners.

4.4 The inspection will evaluate local areas' strategic arrangements for all children, with a specific **focus on unborn babies and children aged 0 to 7 years old**; considering **recent practice** and how well current practice takes account of relevant history in children's cases.

4.5 The inspection will also look at how children's welfare is promoted and protected through effective and timely responses to adult victims of domestic abuse – such as through maternity and adult mental health services – and will consider how perpetrators are dealt with, including through the probation service.

5. What does activity consist of:

5.1 Inspectors will focus on recent practice (usually within the last six months), focusing on children's experiences and progress and will prioritise gathering evidence about direct practice and how partners have worked together to support the child and their family and promote change.

5.2 Inspection activity can consist of:

- In depth case tracking of a child's experiences, including how well practitioners have understood and taken account of their views in assessment planning and intervention.
- Observing the work of practitioners.
- Case sampling to focus on a particular aspect of children's experiences
- Tracking interventions by reviewing documentation and meetings / discussions with agencies
- Undertake observations of multi-agency meetings, e.g., Strategy Meetings, Review Meetings or Panels

- Review documents, performance, and management information
- Evaluate the quality and impact of audits undertaken locally
- Decision making about how multi-agency help is provided and meetings with representatives of our multi-agency safeguarding arrangements
- Undertake case sampling
- Interview practitioners, managers, leaders and stakeholders
- Speak with children, young people and families
- Meet with representatives of our multi-agency safeguarding arrangements (GSCP)
- Observe practice and multi-agency meetings, e.g. ICPC, Strategy Meeting, Multi-agency Panels etc.

6. What will I have to provide for the inspection?

6.1 There are three elements to the inspection as follows:

- Self-assessment/evaluation
- Performance and Management Information
- Multi-Agency Case Audit activity. This includes the submission of child-level data/case records, which changes depending on the theme of the inspection

7. Self-Assessment Evaluation

7.1 Each time a new JTAI theme is announced, evaluation criteria is published within the new inspection framework.

7.2 Once the JTAI theme and new inspection framework is published, the GSCP Business Unit will review the evaluation criteria and produce a benchmarking spreadsheet template for partners to complete. Consideration should be given to what is working well, what are we worried about and what needs to happen

7.3 Once all benchmarking information is received by partners, the information will be reviewed and analysed to enable the partnership to establish how well they are doing on the chosen JTAI theme.

8. Performance and Management Information

8.1 Each time a new theme for inspection is announced, a new inspection framework will be published. Within this inspection framework there will be information which details which performance and management information partners must provide.

8.2 The list of partners may slightly differ each time depending on the inspection theme. Documentary evidence will always be needed for the statutory partners: **Local Authority; Health; and Police**

8.3 Documentary evidence may need to be provided by additional partners. For the JTAI on Domestic Abuse, this includes the **Probation Service** as well as **MASA information**.

8.4 This must be shared by **5pm on Tuesday of week 2**. As most documentation should

be readily available, it is suggested that this evidence is collected in advance of any possible JTAI and that agencies are responsible for ensuring it is up to date and accurate.

9. Multi-Agency Case Audit Activity

9.1 On **day 1 (Monday)** of a JTAI, a selection of pre-determined child-level lists (known as Annex A) will be produced by the Local Authority and submitted on **day 2 (Tuesday).**The Annex A information includes:

- child-level data, which inspectors will use to select the children whose experiences they will evaluate. (Inspectors will ask the local agencies to audit the experiences of some of these children)
- case records of the children whose experiences the local agencies have audited
- performance and management information that sets out how the local partnership works together

9.2 Inspectors will select a list of 20 children on **day 3 (Wednesday)** from these lists.

9.3 Once the 20 children have been selected by inspectors, the GSCP Business Unit will email partners to request further information based on questions within the inspection framework.

9.4 Partners will have to complete the spreadsheet to tight timescales and return to the GSCP Business Unit by **day 4 (Thursday)**. This information will then be provided to the inspectors by 5pm on day 4.

9.5 Inspectors will select the 6 children cases for audit by 11am **day 5 (Friday).** Once the 6 children are selected, the GSCP Business Unit will email partners the Multi-Agency Audit Tool and Chronology for completion as soon as possible.

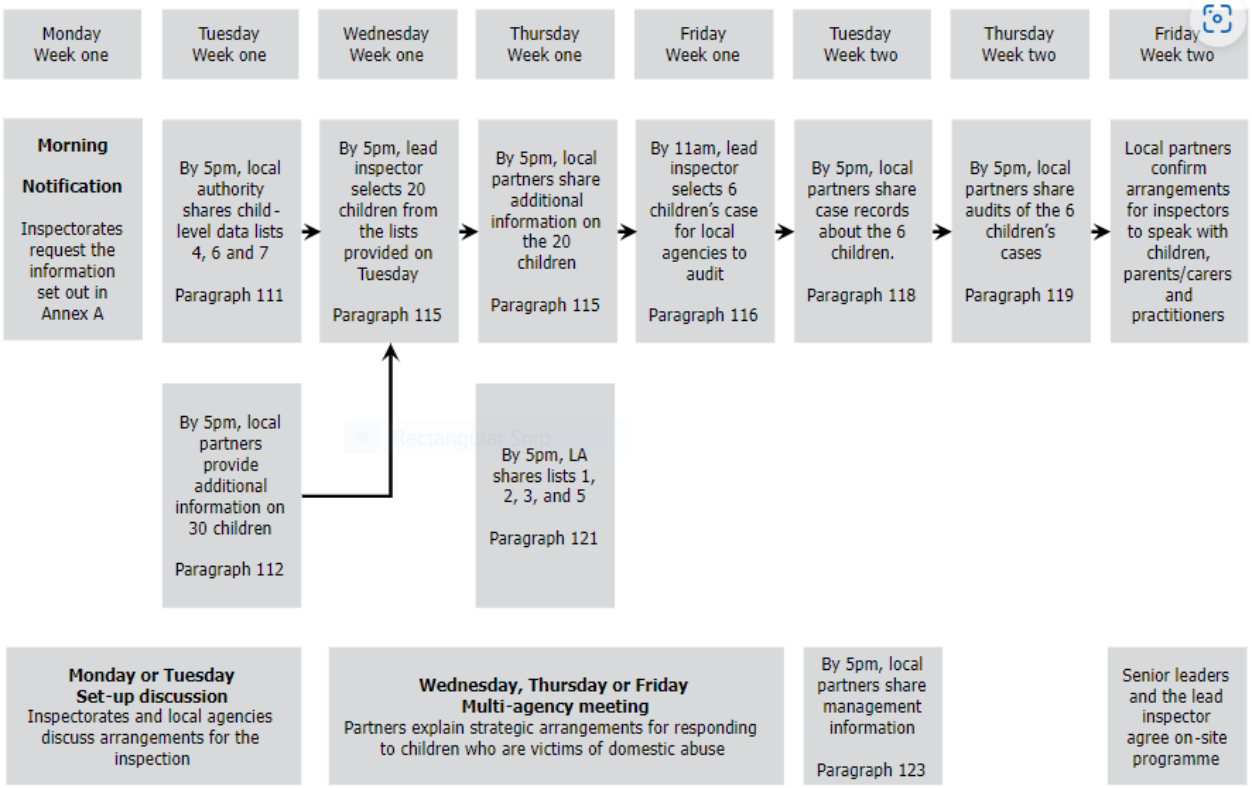
9.6 The GSCP Business Unit will compile the documentation and send back out to partners ahead of a full in person Audit Day. This will be held on **Tuesday or Wednesday of Week 2.**

9.7 A Chair for the Audit will need to be identified and an Audit Author will need to be nominated to write the Audit Report which will need to be concluded and approved by all statutory partners before it is submitted to the inspectors by **Thursday Week 2 at 5pm**.

9.8 All partners involved with the Audit will be expected to turnaround the paperwork within timescales and be expected to attend the Audit Day which will be held in person at Gateshead Civic Centre.

9.9 Additionally, Annex A case audit information is to be provided (6 cases). Whenever possible, the local agencies should share this information electronically in **week 2**.

Figure 1: Process and timeline for sharing supporting information



10. Roles and Responsibilities – What does my agency need to do?

10.1 All partner agencies should familiarise themselves with the JTAI practice guidance

10.2 Each named agency is requested to collate the Performance and Management information which is required in the event of a JTAI inspection.

10.3 Once a JTAI inspection is notified there will be tight deadlines to pull together the Annex A information.

10.4 Each agency is responsible for ensuring that the information held for their agency is accurate and that the GSCP Business Unit have up to date contact information for each agency. If the lead contact name is not available, each agency is responsible for providing suitable deputies and ensuring that all representation (including deputies) from their organisation are fully briefed on what their role and responsibility is once notification of the JTAI inspection is received.

10.5 Each agency is responsible for their tasks identified in the excel document.

11 Further Information

11.1 This practice guidance should also be used in conjunction with the JTAI inspection framework and the following partnership documentation:

- Excel document
- GSCP One Minute Guide – JTAI: Domestic Abuse