Joint Targeted Area Inspection – Domestic Abuse

GATESHEAD safeguarding children partnership

1 What is a JTAI?

A joint targeted area inspection (JTAI) is an inspection framework for evaluating the services for vulnerable children and young people on a particular theme. It is conducted jointly between Ofsted, Care Quality Commission (CQC), His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Service (HMIC&FRS) and His Majesty's Inspectorate Probation (HMIP).

Each JTAI has a specific focus on a theme. All recent themes can be found here

This theme was announced in September 2024.

2 JTAI Scope

This JTAI reflects that children are victims of domestic abuse in their own right if they have seen, heard or experienced the effect of the abuse. Agencies within scope are: police, children's social care, probation and relevant health services. Inspectors will look at how well they work together to identify and respond to children who are victims of domestic abuse.

There will be a specific focus on unborn babies and children aged 0 to 7 years old. It will consider recent practice (within the last 6 months) and how well current practice takes account of relevant history in children's cases.

3 Focus of Inspection

Multi-agency arrangements will be evaluated 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 Partnership Preparation

Those services who have input are asked to consider how they address the 20 Evaluation Criteria

This work will be taken forward through the DAB sub-group focusing on children and young people to collate and co-ordinate preparation.

The GSCP will also record key points of contact for the data and documents required for a JTAI inspection across partner agencies.

5 What is required of agencies during an inspection

Police, **children's social care, relevant health services** and **probation** will be required to:

- provide performance and management information most of which should be available now
- contribute to the multi-agency Case Audit activity which includes the submission of child-level data/case

6 Timeline of Inspection

The 3-week inspection (2 weeks off-site and 3rd week on-site), will triangulate evidence from case sampling and tracking, children and families experiences/views, observing practice and talking to practitioners, gathering information from across agencies.

The inspection team will meet with the senior leaders to share their key findings. In week 6 a draft report will be shared and a final version published in week 10.The findings will be in the form of a narrative rather than graded judgements

7 Further Detail

For more information, you can visit:

Joint inspections of the response to children who are victims of domestic abuse - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

GSCP have prepared a briefing note to go alongside this diagram:

JTAI practice guidance.DA.docx