

Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI)

Multi-Agency Response To Child Sexual Abuse in the Family Environment

Two Minute Guide



What You Need to Know

This is an inspection of the local area arrangements (Not individual agencies) and how leaders, managers and professionals work together to identify and respond to child sexual abuse in the family environment. Sexual abuse by a relative, e.g. parent, stepparent, sibling, grandparent and those closely linked to the family – parent's partner or someone within the home environment with caring responsibilities. The agencies within scope of this inspection are Children's Social Care, the Police, Probation Services and relevant Health services and how local agencies work with education and early years providers and the voluntary and community sector.

Inspectors will evaluate the multi-agency arrangements / response in the last six months for protecting, supporting and caring for children:

- at the point of identification, including the assessment, planning and decision-making
- preventing children from becoming victims of child sexual abuse in the family environment
- if agencies work effectively together, including sharing and analysing information, understanding and evaluating the effectiveness of interventions.
- how effectively the local partnership, through its multi-agency safeguarding arrangements (MASA), monitors, promotes, coordinates and evaluates the work of the statutory partners.
- consider the support for other children and non-perpetrating adults in the same household.
- If professionals and support staff have appropriate workforce skills, knowledge, and capacity to support children and families effectively and that these professionals and support staff are supported.

Children's experiences will be evaluated against 20 criteria which describe what a "Good" service looks like, looking for strengths, areas for improvement and areas for priority action. The findings report for the local area will be narrative based not judgement based, i.e. "Requires Improvement", "Good" etc.

Inspection Activity:

For children living with child sexual abuse in the family environment, inspectors will be focusing on the initial response and the quality and impact of planning and decision making for children's experiences and progress and will prioritise gathering evidence about direct practice with relevant professionals and with children and families.

Inspectors will:

- Undertake case tracking and case sampling
- Evaluate the quality and impact of audits undertaken locally
- Hold discussions with practitioners, managers, leaders, and stakeholders
- Speak with children, young people, and families and evaluate how well practitioners have understood and taken account of their views.
- Meet with representatives of our multi-agency safeguarding arrangements
- Review documents, performance, and management information
- Observe meetings - strategy discussion / meeting, multi-agency panel, ICPC, review meetings or panels and any other relevant meetings, service or project.

Who Will Undertake the Inspection

- 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 – two inspectors

Inspection Timeline

- **Week 1- Inspectors Off Site – Notice Period and Off-Site Activity**

- Notification usually on a Monday, 10 working days before the fieldwork begins
- Annex A information is provided and other management information.
- Inspectors select 20 children and request additional information to be provided against each case from across the partnership
- Inspectors select 6 children, for multi-agency audit and request specific case documents for inspectors' evaluation from across the partnership.

- **Week 2 – Inspectors Off Site – Preparatory Work**

- The local authority and partner agencies complete the audit of the cases selected, submit key documents for each case and share their findings with the inspectorate.
- Preparatory work for the on-site timetable begins.
- Additional performance and management information is provided to the Inspectors by the local authority, and partner agencies.
- Inspectors may meet virtually with local leaders, staff and any stakeholders relevant to the scope of this inspection.

- **Week 3 – Inspectors On Site, Monday to Friday – Feedback Meeting on Friday**

- Meetings with the case holding practitioner of the 6 cases selected take place, 3 of which will be multi-agency (Local Authority Staff Top Tips document embedded)



JTAI Staff Tips 2025
CSAFE.docx

- Meetings with staff, managers, heads of relevant practice areas from across agencies take place
- Meetings with children and young people take place
- Discussions are had with Schools of the 6 cases selected
- Inspection findings are fed back to the local partnership on Friday.

- **Weeks 4 and 5 – Inspectors Off Site – Findings Letter**

- Ofsted draft the findings letter for the local partnership

- **Week 6 – Receipt of Draft Findings Letter**

- Draft findings report sent to the local partnership on Friday of week 6 (15 working days after fieldwork).

- **Weeks 7 and 8 – Local Agencies Comments**

- Director of Children's Services has 9 working days to co-ordinate comments from the partner agencies as part of a factual accuracy check of the report. Comments are returned to inspectors by Thursday of week 8

- **Week 10 – Report Publication**

- Final findings report is sent to local partners on Monday of week 10 and this is an embargoed version until Friday of this week when the report is published and available to the public.