

Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI) of The Multi-Agency Response To Identification of Initial Need and Risk

(Commencing from April 2022)

Two Minute Guide



What You Need to Know

This is an inspection of the local area arrangements and how leaders, managers and professionals work together to identify and respond to children at risk of or experiencing some form of harm. The agencies within scope of this inspection are the Police, Children's Social Care, Education and relevant Health services. Inspectors will evaluate:

- 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, co-ordinates 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 the West Yorkshire Integrated health and Care Partnership 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

The focus is on practice within the last six months and will evaluate how well current practice takes account of relevant history in children's cases.

Children's experiences will be evaluated against 22 criteria 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.

Who Will Undertake The Inspection (Under Section 20 - Children Act 2004)

Inspectors from:

- Ofsted - two social care inspectors – one will be the lead inspector,
- Ofsted - one school's inspector
- Care Quality Commission (CQC) – two inspectors
- Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) – two inspectors

Inspection Activity:

Inspectors will be focusing on children's experiences and progress and will prioritise gathering evidence about direct practice with children and families.

Inspectors will:

- Undertake case sampling
- Undertake case tracking (a more in-depth look at practice and at least five cases will be selected from performance and management information provided in advance of the on-site activity (week 3))
- Evaluate the quality and impact of audits undertaken locally
- Interview practitioners, managers, leaders and stakeholders
- Speak with children, young people and families
- Meet with representatives of our multi-agency safeguarding arrangements (WSCP)
- Review documents, performance and management information
- Observe practice and multi-agency meetings, e.g. ICPC, Strategy Meeting, Multi-agency Panels etc.

Inspection Timeline

Week 1- Inspectors Off Site

- Notification usually on a Monday, 10 working days before the fieldwork begins
- Annex A information (Prescribed child level data) is provided, along with a list of multi-agency audits completed in the last 6 months.
- Inspectors select 30 children and further information is provided on these cases.
- Five children's cases are selected for local partners to audit on a single and multi-agency basis.

Week 2 – Inspectors Off Site

- The local authority and partner agencies complete the audit of the five 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, the Police and relevant Health services.
- Inspectors may meet virtually with local leaders, staff and any stakeholders relevant to the scope of this inspection.

Week 3 – Inspectors On Site

- Fieldwork takes place Monday to Friday and inspection activity listed above is undertaken by inspectors.
- Inspection findings are fed back to the local partnership on Friday.

Weeks 4 and 5 – Inspectors Off Site

Ofsted draft the findings letter for the local partnership

Week 6

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

Weeks 7 and 8

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

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.