



7-Minute-Briefing - Joint Targeted Area Inspection

JTAI – What is it and what to expect.

What are JTAIs?

JTAI stands for Joint Targeted Area Inspection.

It involves four inspectorates coming together to jointly assess how well the Local Authority, police, health, probation and youth offending services work together to identify, support and protect vulnerable children. The inspectors are from:

- Ofsted
- Care Quality Commission (CQC)
- His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary & Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS)
- His Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP)

The inspectorates jointly assess how well the local authority, police, health, probation and youth offending services work together to identify, support and protect vulnerable children.

What do they focus on

Each JTAI will be focused on a particular cohort of children or a theme.

The inspectors will complete a 'deep dive' that evaluates the experiences of children and young people at risk of harm. The themes can change each year but are currently the multi-agency response to:

- Families who need help (Early Help arrangements)
- The identification of initial need and risk (the 'front door' of child protection)
- The criminal exploitation of children
- Serious youth violence

How do they work

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

They will usually last 3 weeks taking the following format:

- Week 1: notification received. Prepare and begin sending information to inspectors. There is a pre-determined list of things that they will want to know, this is called 'Annex A'.
- Week 2: partners complete a multi-agency audit of children's experience for a sample of children that the inspectors have chosen and share their findings with the inspectors. The inspectors may also request to meet remotely with leaders and key stakeholders.
- Week 3: the inspectors will be physically in Staffordshire to complete their fieldwork.

What info is used?

The inspection team will triangulate information from a range of sources to evaluate children's experiences. This includes:

- Hearing from children and families about their experiences.
- Case Sampling and Tracking.
- Observations of practice and interviews.
- Information from individual agencies and partnership boards.

What do we need to do

What do we need to do to be prepared?

The inspections are an evaluation of how well we are working together to keep children safe. The best way to prepare is to:

- ensure we are clear what good looks like
- be regularly assessing ourselves against this criteria, using a range of sources
- have robust plans in place to continually improve

It is a collective responsibility across partnerships to ensure we are not just doing this within our own agencies but working well together and constructively challenging each other.

Feed back and report

Verbal feedback will be given to senior leaders in the local partnership on what they have seen and heard.

These findings will be written up in a letter addressed to the senior leaders in the local partnership. The findings will be in the form of a narrative rather than graded judgements and will include strengths and areas for development. The letter is not usually published for several weeks after the inspection has concluded.

For more information

- Contact Jenny Herbert, Head of Performance, Quality Assurance & Engagement - jenny.herbert@staffordshire.gov.uk
- [New frameworks for joint targeted area inspections \(JTAs\)](#)
- [Joint targeted area inspection of the multi-agency response to identification of initial need and risk](#)
- [Joint targeted area inspection of the multi-agency response to the criminal exploitation of children](#)
- [Joint targeted area inspections to focus on serious youth violence](#)

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