

Joint Targeted Area Inspection Briefing

for practitioners

April 2023



What is a Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI)?

A JTAI is a short, focused inspection carried out on a multi-agency basis. It is led by Ofsted and involves the Care Quality Commission (CQC), His Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP) and His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS).

The inspectorates jointly assess how local authorities, the police, health, probation, youth offending and community services are working together in an area to identify, support and protect vulnerable children and young people.

They are carried out under section 20 of the Children Act 2004 and are statutory for all professionals.

What is a Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI)?

It is an unannounced inspection of the multi-agency arrangements of:

- the response to all forms of child abuse, neglect and exploitation.
- the quality and impact of assessment, planning and decision making in response to notifications and referrals.
- how children and young people at risk of a specific type/s of harm are protected.
- the support and care of looked after children and/or care leavers.
- the leadership and management of this work.
- the effectiveness of local safeguarding arrangements.

JTAI Timeline

Activities in week 1 (off site)

- We do not know when week 1 is – it is an unannounced inspection.
- Notification is 10 working days before onsite activity begins. During these 10 days there is minimal impact on practitioners. This is where the children's cases are identified.
- By the end of week 1, inspectors will select between 5 and 7 children and ask the local agencies to audit these children's experiences – details will be shared with agencies and practitioners involved at the earliest possible opportunity.
- Once notification is received, please be prepared to prioritise a response to any requests for information that the inspectorate may make.

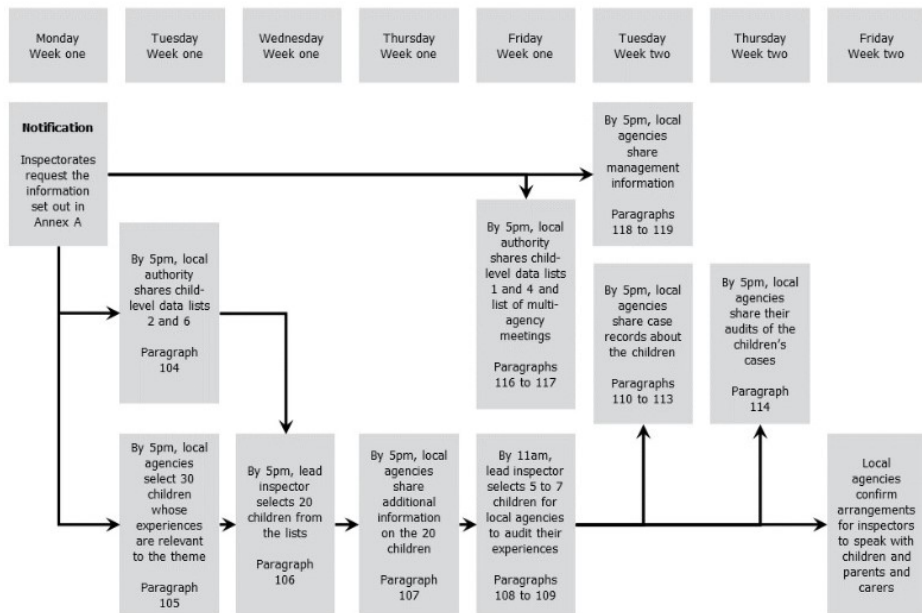
JTAI Timeline

Activities in week 2 (off site)

- Agencies should audit the selected cases using their own agency audit tool, ensuring that deadlines are followed as instructed.
- Multi-agency audits will be completed by the partnership.
- Agencies should share performance and management information as requested.
- A timetable will be agreed for inspectors to work with local agencies where if requested, you will be informed of a meeting with an inspector / inspectorate.

JTAI timeline chart – offsite weeks one and two

*Timelines may differ with each theme



JTAI Timeline

Activities in week 3 (fieldwork / onsite)

- Inspection team meetings and meetings with senior leaders.
- Gathering and evaluating evidence by case tracking and case sampling. This includes:
 - reviewing children's records (including case file notes) and audits carried out by local agencies.
 - discussing children's experiences with them and their parents or carers and the practitioners supporting them.
 - observing the work of practitioners – this could be in CIN, planning or review meetings, strategy discussions and any others relevant.
 - dip sampling.

What does this mean for me?

- Between five to seven cases will be selected for a comprehensive multi-agency audit of the experiences these children have had in the local area. These may be children that you have worked with.
- All involved agencies will need to release the notes of selected children. This will need to be prioritised to ensure timescales aren't breached.
- You will be informed as soon as a JTAI is announced and supported by your agency throughout the process.
- Be prepared to prioritise a response to any requests for information that the inspectorate may make.
- Be available for discussion and/or observation when required.

What does this mean for me?

- Case files should be up to date and include (but not be limited to) case records, assessments and contact details of other professionals involved.
- You may need to support colleagues who may be more directly involved than you are.
- Be assured that inspectors take into account individual children's starting points and circumstances during inspections. They recognise that even slight progress in a particular aspect of their lives may represent a significant improvement for some children. They also recognise that for some children, because of their experiences of trauma, abuse or neglect, progress is not always straightforward.
- They will be looking at practice usually within the last 6 months, but they may need to look further than this to understand a child's journey.

Outcome / The letter of findings

Following the inspection, the lead inspector will write up the inspection findings, drawing on the inspection team's expertise as required.

The letter will set out any strengths, areas for improvement and areas for priority action where the partnership will response to the priority areas for action.

Themes identified

- [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 inspection of the multi-agency response to children and families who need help](#)
- [Joint targeted area inspections of the multi-agency response to serious youth violence](#)

Are you inspection ready?

- Ensure your records are up-to-date.
- Demonstrate children's needs are understood & supported appropriately.
- Demonstrate the lived experience of the child in relation to category of concern and how this is being met.
- Evidence information sharing, working in partnership and how systems effectively communicate.
- Be able to demonstrate effective and innovative practice.

Top tips

- Showcase your practice and what a difference you are making to our children, young people and families in the city – it's good to be proud and passionate!
- Know your children and young people well and be able to confidently talk about their story and who they are as individuals.
- Take every opportunity to talk to inspectors about your good practice, especially if the file they have selected is not as good as it could be – have some good examples ready to mention in case this happens.
- Be prepared to provide details of the work you are doing to improve outcomes for children and young people – they will want to know how the plan is working and how you are making a difference (the impact).

Top tips

- Think about how you have built relationships and used tools to support children and parents to be involved in and heard as part of the assessment / planning.
- Beware of informality – think job interview!
- Share how our service has improved - It's ok to say there are challenges in teams / across the service, but please also say what we have done / are doing to address these and our aims to achieve excellent practice.
- Talk to them about key achievements in your agency.

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