

## **Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI): Guidance for Practitioners**

JTAIs are joint inspections carried out by Ofsted, the Care Quality Commission (CQC), Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation.

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

The new short inspections allow inspectorates to be more responsive, targeting specific areas of interest and concern. They will also identify areas for improvement and highlight good practice from which others can learn.

The scope of JTAIs are to look at multi-agency arrangements, including the quality and timeliness of assessments, and to carry out a 'deep dive' investigation of the response to specific children and young people (usually described as the 'theme' of the inspections).

### **What does JTAI focus on?**

The current theme for the JTAI Inspections is in regard to the multi-agency response to identification of initial need and risk (or the 'front door' of child protection)

Future themes are published via the Government website:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/joint-inspections-of-local-area-services>

### **What does inspection activity consist of?**

Inspectors focus 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 the safeguarding children partnership
- Review documents, performance and management information
- Observe practice and multi-agency meetings, e.g. ICPC, Strategy Meeting, Multi-agency Panels etc.
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## **What to expect during an Inspection and how long does the Inspection last?**

### **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 to Seven 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 is 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.