

# Joint Area Review (JAR) of Services for Children and Young People in Worcestershire

JAR newsletter | June 2008

We have now completed the analysis stage of our Joint Area Review. The inspectors were at County Hall for a week and undertook the initial stages of their investigations. At the end of the week they gave feedback on what topics they would investigate further during the on-site fieldwork fortnight. We now have a much better idea of what areas the inspectors will focus on, and who they would like to see to help with their investigations.

This issue of the newsletter contains information on key topics of investigation. These are particularly relevant if you are being seen as part of the inspection. However, please all take the time to read them carefully - the key messages may be about the area you work in, or you may need knowledge of them to support someone being seen through an interview or site visit.

During fieldwork fortnight, we have the chance to tell the inspectors about all the positive work going on in services provided to children and young people. If you have the opportunity to do this, please take it!

*Richard Hubbard*

Director of Children's Services



## Analysis week

Inspectors were on site at County Hall between 9th June and 13th June for analysis week. During this time they undertook the following activities:

- The inspectors investigated safe recruitment practices in the County Council.
- The inspectors had short briefings on the following five subjects:
  - *Looked after children*
  - *Safeguarding*
  - *Children with a learning difficulty or disability*
  - *Service management*
  - *Equality and diversity*
- Case file audit: inspectors read through 10 case files of children and young people from a range of partners including the Council, PCT, YISP, YOS, and schools.
- Youth Offending Service mini-inspection: Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation carried out the Youth Offending Service mini-inspection.
- Timetable: the inspectors have given the JAR working group a list of the people who will be seen as part of the fieldwork fortnight programme. This includes people involved in interviews, focus groups and site visits.

More JAR information is available at  
[www.worcestershire.gov.uk/jar](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/jar)



Children & Young People's  
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## Key areas for follow up investigation

It is impossible to give a full list in this newsletter of all the feedback points. If you are being seen you will be briefed in detail. Here are some of the key areas for follow up:

- Safe recruitment practices
- How well services keep children and young people safe
- How well services have a shared understanding of each others roles and how services are linking together to deliver against our priorities
- How we undertake performance management rather than performance monitoring
- How well the views of children and young people inform service provision at all levels (e.g. consultation)
- Prevention and early intervention
- Transitions to adulthood
- Accessibility of services, including the rural dimension
- How we target vulnerable groups according to where they live in Worcestershire

## Specific areas they will follow up include:

- Contribution of Personal, Social and Health Education in schools to improving sexual health
- Accessibility of CAMHs (Child and Adolescent Mental Health) services
- Emotional health of children and young people
- Outcomes of looked after children
- Bullying and anti-social behaviour
- Common Assessment Framework
- Children who do not attend school
- Identifying the whereabouts of all children and young people
- Safeguarding training and its impact
- How data and information are used to plan services and improve outcomes for vulnerable groups
- Post 16 collaborative arrangements and progression for all children, but particular focus on LAC and LDD
- Housing for care leavers, including the contribution of district councils
- Integrated approach to LDD across all agencies

We are in the process of scheduling interviews, focus groups and site visits for the fieldwork fortnight. This will take a while to complete. Should you be involved in meeting the inspectors we will be in contact with you. The inspectors have mentioned that the timetable may change and develop as the investigations progress. We will keep relevant people informed as the process unfolds. Please be ready to respond to phone calls or emails from the JAR working group.

## Key JAR contacts

If you have a question about the JAR or the Children and Young People's Plan, please email  
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**In summary, five key themes have emerged which the inspectors will follow through in all interviews, focus groups and site visits:**

- **safeguarding**
- **equality and diversity**
- **prevention**
- **how quickly we respond to changing needs**
- **impact and outcomes**