

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

JAR newsletter | March 2008

We have received a letter from Ofsted with confirmation of the Joint Area Review timetable for Worcestershire. On the back page of this newsletter is a timeline containing this information, as well as key dates around the launch of our new Children and Young People's Plan and the Council's Annual Performance Assessment inspection.

The JAR working group continues to focus on writing and consulting on the new Children and Young People's Plan, as well as ensuring that arrangements are in place for when the inspectors visit us onsite.

Please do not hesitate to contact the JAR team on jar@worcestershire.gov.uk if you have any queries or concerns around the process.

Richard Hubbard

Director of Children's Services



Information from Ofsted

Worcestershire received official notification of timescales for our JAR in a letter from Ofsted sent on 18th February.

We have also been informed by Ofsted that Worcestershire County Council and partners will be subject to an Annual Performance Assessment in October this year. Previously, during the year in which local authorities had a JAR inspection, they were exempt from having an APA inspection. The methodology has been altered because of the move to the new inspection regime in 2009 known as 'Comprehensive Area Assessment'.

The timeline on the other side of this newsletter contains all of the JAR and APA key dates, as well as information about the new Children and Young People's Plan. This information, and more, is also available on the JAR website

www.worcestershire.gov.uk/jar

Partnership Focus: Primary Care Trust

We spoke to Vicky Preece, Associate Director of Nursing, about how the PCT are preparing for the JAR...

Worcestershire PCT is currently working in partnership with Worcestershire County Council and other agencies to ensure that we achieve positive outcomes from the planned Joint Area Review. Vicky Preece, Associate Director of Nursing and Marie McCurry, Associate Director of Provider Services are leading this project on behalf of the PCT. They can be contacted on 01905 760072.

Early priorities have been to assist in the selection of case files which will eventually be submitted to the inspectors. During the period from March through to June, emphasis will be placed on communicating with frontline staff in the PCT who are involved in the delivery of services to children, young people and their families. A series of newsletters and staff meetings will be held to ensure all staff are made fully aware of the JAR process.



Worcestershire
SOURCE OF EXCELLENCE
**Children & Young People's
Strategic Partnership**

JAR, Children and Young People's Plan and APA Key Dates

Date (2008)	Stage	Description of event
17th March	Children and Young People's Plan to CYPSP	The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership will discuss and comment on the new Plan.
20th March	JAR briefing conference	5 representatives from Worcestershire will attend a briefing conference in London with representatives from other authorities who will be having their JAR at the same time as us. The JAR arrangements will be explained and there will be opportunity for us to ask questions.
31st March	JAR briefing pack	We will receive the full briefing pack containing detailed information about JAR arrangements in Worcestershire. <i>Look out for more information in the April JAR newsletter, and on the website!</i>
April	APA dataset and handbook available	Because of the timing, the APA dataset will contain mostly non-social care indicators. Un-validated social care data will be available in June. The handbook will contain confirmation of APA arrangements for 2008.
17th April	Council Cabinet meeting	The new Children and Young People's Plan, the Needs Assessment and the Consultation Report will be considered by Worcestershire County Council Cabinet.
29th April	JAR joint set-up meeting	The lead inspector, deputy lead inspector and joint inspector for Worcestershire will visit us to brief senior officers, partners and members about the investigations they will undertake during the JAR.
8th May	Full Council meeting	The new Children and Young People's Plan will be considered by full Council.
13th May	Submit JAR self assessment	The new Children and Young People's Plan will be submitted to Ofsted as our 'self assessment' document.
14th May	Official launch of Children and Young People's Plan	The new Plan will be launched at an event at Worcester Rugby Club. Hard copies of the Executive Summary and detailed Action Plan will be available on the day. The full plan will be available to download from the CYPSP website.
9th – 11th June	JAR analysis week	Inspectors will be onsite for three days and will work on the case file audit, consider data and read key documents.
26th June	APA submission	Self-evaluation documents submitted as part of the APA inspection. Self-evaluation grades submitted for 5 ECM outcomes, effectiveness of children's services and capacity of the Council to improve the services.
30th June – 11th July	JAR on site fieldwork	JAR inspectors will be onsite at County Hall, and will visit locations throughout the County. They will meet with key people, undertake focus groups, observe meetings and visit projects and settings to help inform their judgments.
September	Validated APA dataset available	Following comments from the Council on the dataset, and updates on any new data available, the validated APA dataset will be available to the Council.
17th September	Draft JAR report available	Draft JAR report will be sent to the Council and partners for comment.
24th September	Draft JAR report discussion	The draft JAR report, and any comments, will be discussed at a meeting with Ofsted.
Week beginning 29th September	APA inspection	The Annual Performance Assessment of Worcestershire County Council will take place during this week. There will be no onsite inspection – it will be a 'table-top' exercise.
1st October	Comments on draft JAR report	Worcestershire must send comments on the draft JAR report to Ofsted by 5pm on this date.
27th October	Pre-publication JAR report	Pre publication JAR report sent to Council and partners.
18th November	Publication of JAR report	Final JAR report, including scores, will be officially published on the Ofsted website.
17th December	APA letter and grades published	APA letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

Key to colour coding: **JAR event** **CYPSP event** **APA event**