

Joint Targeted Area Inspection

JTAI - what is it and what to expect

What are JTAIs?

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JTAIs are an inspection of multi-agency arrangements for:

- The response to all forms of child abuse, neglect and exploitation.
- The quality and impact of assessment, planning and decision making in response to referrals.
- Protecting children and young people at risk of a specific type (or types) of harm, or the support and care of children looked after and/or care leavers (evaluated through a deep dive investigation).
- The leadership and management of this work.
- The effectiveness of local safeguarding arrangements.

Who does JTAIs?

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JTAIs are conducted by the following inspectorates:

- Ofsted
- Care Quality Commission (CQC)
- His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC)
- His Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP)

All four inspectorates will jointly assess how well the Local Authority, police, health, probation and youth offending services work together to identify, support and protect vulnerable children.

What notice do you get?

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A JTAI can take place at any time - there are no advance notification dates.

There will be a notification period for the local partnership of nine working days before the inspectors come on site.

During that time the inspectors will be provided with child-level data; a list of children for the deep dive theme; case file documents and other information to support the inspection.

What info is used?

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The inspection will use the following information to evaluate children's experiences:

1. Case Sampling and Tracking.
2. Observation of practice and interviews.
3. Information from individual agencies.

Inspectors will triangulate evidence by meeting with children, parents and carers and talking to practitioners and / or managers (in person or by phone).

What is the Deep Dive?

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The 'Deep Dive' evaluates the experiences of children and young people at risk of a specific type (or types) of harm.

Inspectors may request additional information to assist the Deep Dive.

JTAI themes include:

- Multi-agency response to identification of initial need and risk.
- Multi-agency response to the criminal exploitation of children.
- Multi-agency response to children and families who need help.
- Older children in need of help and protection.

What's next?

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Timescales:

In March 2022, the inspectorates carried out two JTAI on 'multi-agency response to identification of initial need and risk' and 'multi-agency response to the criminal exploitation of children'. Guidance for these themes was then published in June the same year.

Ofsted will develop guidance and inspect the other deep dive themes in 2023 and 2024, respectively.

They will carry out six inspections for each of these new themes.

Ofsted also plan to carry out up to four JTAIs each year, to revisit some of the earlier deep dive themes to see how practice has moved forward.

Feedback and report

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Verbal feedback will be given at the end of the onsite inspection (end of week 3).

By the end of week nine the inspectors 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 and any areas of priority action.

Click here for:

Somerset JTAI prep Briefings

