

JTAI Audit Findings

Joint Targeted Area Inspection

Child Exploitation

Multi-agency response to the criminal exploitation of children

CE JTAI scope:

The main focus of this JTAI is the multi-agency arrangements in relation to criminal exploitation, but we will also look at whether local agencies have a distinct and effective focus on identifying children at risk of or experiencing sexual exploitation. If a child is at risk of or experiencing both **criminal and sexual exploitation**, we will evaluate the holistic multi-agency response.

The agencies within the scope of this inspection are the police, Children's Social Care, education and relevant health services.

Multi-agency arrangements evaluated for:

- Responding to all forms of child criminal exploitation at the point of identification
- Assessment, planning and decision-making in response to notifications and referrals of children at risk of criminal exploitation, or who have been criminally exploited
- Protecting, supporting and caring for children who are at risk or have been harmed by criminal exploitation, including the support and care of children looked after and/or care leavers
- Preventing child criminal exploitation, including through awareness-raising and use of disruption activity (Disruption involves strategies and tactics designed by the police and other safeguarding partners to reduce risks to vulnerable children and interrupt the activity of those who are seeking to exploit them)
- Identifying children at risk of sexual exploitation and the multi-agency response

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Autumn JTAI Audits:
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Three multi-agency audit discussions were undertaken by the partnership in autumn 2022. These were a scaled down version of the multi-agency auditing required for a full JTAI, and were intended to test the partnerships ability to respond to JTAI, and also learn from case examples about partnership practice around CE.

Identified areas for development : **quality of practice and intervention, systemic practice, relationship based practice, identity / voice of the child, young person and/or family, and risk management.**

Key learning:

Areas for development:
Quality of Practice and intervention

- In all three audits, Children's Social Care direct work plans and interventions could have been clearer
- Creative and curious planning and engagement with children and families
- Clarity around information sharing (e.g. missing prevention plans, screening tools)
- Consistency of meaningful contacts after 'missing episodes'

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Key learning:

Areas for development:
Systemic Practice

- Involvement of education safeguarding/inclusion**
 - Referral/trigger mechanisms - unclear pathways to accessing support for identified needs
 - No support post 16
- Strategy meetings**
 - Ensuring correct partners (and correct representatives) are invited/attend
- Multi-agency support**
 - Ensuring co-ordinated approach to support

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Useful links:

Click here for:

Child Exploitation Screening Tool

Click here for:

Child Exploitation Guidance webpage

Click here for:

NWG Network webpage

www.somersetsafeguardingchildren.org.uk

Key learning:

Areas for development:
Relationship Based Practice
Utilising existing professional relationships to build trust

- e.g. support investigations
- Support the family to develop relationships with other services/agencies

Identity / voice of the child, young person and/or family

Utilising direct work, and being creative, to understand the young person's needs and perspective

- Informs effective planning and decision making

RISK Management

Holistic Risk identification and management

- Clear understanding of risks (contextual & intrafamilial)
- Clear plan around managing identified risks

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Strengths identified:

Youth Justice Team

- Relationship based practice
- Strengths based planning
- Effective intervention - to address and minimise risk of harm to self and others
- Quality of planning - including young person's wishes and feelings

Clear drive across all agencies and practitioners to support children at risk of /experiencing exploitation

Recognising children as vulnerable to CE

- Violence Reduction Unit predictive analytics resulted in early intervention

Where risks are clearly defined and shared, plans are smarter, and partners are confident to deliver these

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