

Joint Area Reviews – FAQ

1. What is the JAR?

The Joint Area Review, or JAR, is an inspection of the whole range of services provided by the agencies and organisations which together make up the Nottinghamshire Children and Young People Partnership. The inspections are carried out by teams drawn from ten Inspectorates including OfSTED, The Commission for Social Care Inspection, The Audit Commission, The Health Care Commission and HM Inspectorate of Constabulary. From 17-23 April 2008 a JAR Inspection Team will be based in County Hall looking at our key documents and reading a sample of children's case records. Then, from 12 - 23 May, Inspectors will spend two weeks on site interviewing staff, managers and elected members, meeting focus groups and visiting services. The views of children and young people who receive services and their parents and carers will be a very significant part of the JAR. It also takes account of inspections of schools, FE colleges and residential settings and is:

- aligned with the comprehensive performance assessment (CPA)
- aligned with the YOS inspection led by HM Inspectorate of Probation
- undertaken at the same time as the enhanced youth service inspection

2. What is the scope of the JAR?

The JAR inspectors will make judgements about the way in which we work together as partners to deliver services and improve outcomes for children and young people across Nottinghamshire.

The JAR will focus on our most vulnerable children. Inspectors will want to find out how well all agencies are working together to safeguard children and improving outcomes for looked after children and children with learning difficulties and disabilities. They will also want to find out how well services are managed and whether there is capacity for service improvement.

Other investigations are carried out which are decided by the Inspection team. In Nottinghamshire, it was confirmed at the set up meeting on 3rd March that there will be two additional lines of enquiry:

- The effectiveness of the partners' strategy in countering the impact of deprivation on health outcomes for children and young people (with particular reference to Mansfield, Ashfield and Bassetlaw)
- The impact of the partners' 14-19 strategy in improving outcomes for young people.

3. What are the key dates for the Joint Area Review?

3 March 2008: JOINT SET-UP MEETING

The Joint Area Review (JAR) Lead Inspector will meet with the representatives from the Nottinghamshire Children and Young People's Partnership to confirm the focus of the inspection.

17 - 23 April 2008: ANALYSIS WEEK

The JAR inspection team will scrutinise a sample of case files, analyse our review of the Children and Young People's Plan, and read inspection reports and other documents to decide upon the fieldwork activities they will carry out.

12 – 23 May 2008: FIELDWORK

The inspection team will be in Nottinghamshire to talk to a wide range of staff, service users, stakeholders and children and young people and their carers to find out what they think of our services.

9 September 2008: JAR REPORT

The JAR Report will be published on the Ofsted website.

4. How can I keep up to date with what's happening?

Your own organisation will circulate JAR updates to you through your usual communication routes. You are also invited to attend briefing sessions (additional dates have been arranged for Carlton on 8 April and Newark on 10 April both at 2pm) and be able to find information on a Partnership page of the Council's website which will be regularly updated

www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/nottscyppartnership. Those who will be formally interviewed will receive additional briefings.

You can contact the JAR team administrator on 0115 977 2276 or e-mail emma.jenkinson@nottscc.gov.uk for more information.