



Nottinghamshire Joint Area Review

Briefing 1 – August/September 2007

The Joint Area Review (JAR) is an inspection of all children and young people's services across a Local Authority area. Across Nottinghamshire the JAR will take place in May 2008 and will be undertaken by a joint inspectorate including:

- Ofsted
- Healthcare Commission
- CSCI
- Youth services inspectorate

The JAR is a review of all services, not just local authority services. The following inspections will take place simultaneously:

- The 2008 Annual Performance Assessment of Children and Young People's Services
- The Corporate Performance Assessment of the County Council. (The JAR contributes the children and young people's element of the CPA.)
- The Enhanced Youth Inspection
- The Inspection of the Youth Offending Service

The purpose is to analyse how well our services across the Partnership are working together to secure improved outcomes for the children and young people of Nottinghamshire. The JAR is a resource intensive process delivering detailed analysis and judgments of the Nottinghamshire Children and Young People's Partnership, including the functioning of Children and Young People's Services.

The key elements of the inspection are:

- Examination of a prescribed range of documentation from all organisations in advance of the onsite period
- Two week on-site period from May 12th – 23rd 2008
- Scrutiny of ten case files with an in depth audit trail for each one
- Graded judgments of our ability to improve outcomes for:
 - Children in need of safeguarding,
 - Children and young people looked after by the Local Authority
 - Disabled and learning disabled children
- Graded judgements on our Service Management and Capacity to Improve
- Inspection and judgment of key areas of concern identified through the 2007 Annual Performance Assessment (report due in November 2007).
- Inspection of universal, targeted and specialist services of all agencies across the five Every Child Matters outcomes

- Fieldwork visits selected by the inspectors including questioning of children, young people, parents and carers, members, senior managers, and staff at all levels including those in direct contact with children and young people

The Role of staff in the JAR

Staff and managers across the Partnership need to know that the JAR is taking place, its importance and how it links with their role. The inspectors will want to interview a range of people in connection with individual cases, projects or aspects of the Every Child Matters agenda and partnership working. It is therefore important that you keep up to date with JAR preparations. If you want to know more please speak to your manager. The JAR team are also available for further information.

Activity to date includes:

- The establishment of a JAR project team and a supporting reference group including representatives from all partners
- Weekly JAR team meetings
- Work to select the 100 case files required by the inspectors
- Documentation work
- A communications plan for across the Partnership

**Alison Bromberg Carol Angharad Les Cowling
Sarah Craven Simon Ray Sue Dryden**

**The JAR TEAM
December 2007**