

Joint Area Review Update no 2



Key Messages from this newsletter

Project team news • Key dates
Case file preparation • CYPP Plan



Anthony May is the new Acting Director of Children & Young People's Services for Nottinghamshire County Council.

I am delighted to have been given this opportunity to lead Children & Young People's Services, which incorporates our Children and Young People's Partnership.

Preparing for the Joint Area Review is high on my list of priorities for the New Year. I am sure that colleagues across the Partnership are keen to enable the inspection team to experience the excellent work which is taking place across Nottinghamshire.

Although we expect it to be a tough test, the JAR gives us a rare opportunity for rigorous external scrutiny of our services. By the time the inspection team begins work, it is important that we're in shape to demonstrate the best of what we do and provide the team with access to all areas of our Partnership. In this respect, I know that my colleagues in the JAR project team can count on your support and co-operation.

The outcomes of the JAR will help us to continue to improve our services and partnership work. The JAR provides us with a learning opportunity and a health check on our progress with the Every Child Matters agenda – it is vital that we maximise its potential.

I look forward to working with you all over the next year and to seeing many of you in the run up to the Joint Area Review.

Best wishes.

Anthony May

Project team news

Ty Yousaf from Children's Social Care has joined the JAR team. His main responsibility will be ensuring that documents required by the inspection team are available and in order.

Annual Performance Assessment

Children's Services received formal notification of its 2007 Annual Performance Assessment late in

November. The overall effectiveness of Children's Services was graded at 2, from a possible grading of 1 - Weak to 4 - Excellent.

This year's assessment praised much of the excellent work happening both within the Local Authority and across the Partnership. However, it also highlighted specific areas for improvement and it is likely these will be highlighted in the 2008 APA and Joint Area Review.

JAR Team members:

Les Cowling	Project Lead
Alison Bromberg & Sarah Craven	Co-ordination and Project Management
Sue Dryden	Health Lead
Carol Angharad & Simon Ray	Case files
Ty Yousef	Documentation
Emma Jenkinson	Administration
Michèle McIntosh	Communications

Case File Preparation

The JAR project team has worked with teams across Children & Young People's Services to complete an audit of 100 case files. These are made up of 30 child protection files, 35 looked after children files and 35 files of children with learning difficulties or disabilities. Partner agencies will by now have the list of names and are asked to audit these urgently.

Inspectors will eventually choose ten children and young people from the 100 and will cross-check the records held by all of the agencies working with them. These files will also be the starting point for the fieldwork section of the inspection. The next JAR update will have more details about supporting colleagues involved in the fieldwork visits and meetings.

Communications

The JAR team have welcomed Michèle McIntosh, Communications Manager, Children & Young People's Services, who joins us for the run up to the Joint Area Review.

Michèle is working with communication leads in partner agencies to ensure information about the Nottinghamshire CYP Partnership and the JAR is circulated widely.

Look out for the Children and Young People's Plan and information about the JAR on your organisation's internet and intranet sites. Further information and staff briefings are planned for early in the new year.

Key Dates in 2008

January Briefing pack issued by Ofsted requesting a list of 100 'cases' of vulnerable children and young people.

29 February Set-up meeting for senior officers/members with the Lead Inspector for an outline of the key lines of enquiry for the inspection.

Late March submission of CYPP review and Enhanced Youth Inspection self assessment.

21-25 April Analysis Week (inspectors on-site mid week to review documents and case files).

12-23 May Fieldwork Weeks – inspectors undertake a range of evidence gathering activities around Nottinghamshire.

Late June Lead inspector meets with Director of Children's Services to discuss findings.

Mid August Publication of report and action plan required within 70 days.

JAR Judgements

The JAR will deliver five graded judgements on:

- safeguarding
- looked after children
- children with disabilities/learning difficulties
- service management
- capacity to improve.

Plus ungraded judgements from additional areas of investigation arising from the 2007 APA or other inspections.

Review of the Nottinghamshire CYPP

The annual review of our Children & Young People's Plan (2007-2009) is underway and formal consultations with partner agencies will be held by March. The plan was developed by the Nottinghamshire Partnership for Children, Young People and Families. It explains how the wellbeing of our children and young people will be safeguarded and improved and outlines the priorities in Nottinghamshire. The CYPP is available on web sites of partner agencies and Nottinghamshire County Council website:

www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeoplesplan

The JAR team can all be contacted by telephone on 0115 982 3823,
or by email using the following format: firstname.lastname@nottsc.gov.uk

JAR Update is published by Children & Young People's Services, Nottinghamshire County Council,
on behalf of Nottinghamshire Children & Young People's Partnership

NEW CYP Partnership Web Area coming soon! more details in JAR Update No3.