

Joint Area Review

Update no 5



Key Messages from this newsletter

Youth Service Inspection • The 14-19 Inspection Focus • How you can be prepared

Louise Newcombe is Chief Executive of Bassetlaw Primary Care Trust, Wendy Saviour is Chief Executive of Nottinghamshire Primary Care Trust.

In February representatives from both Primary Care Trusts attended the first meeting of the reconstituted Children and Young People's Partnership Board committing our organisations to participating fully in the development of Children's Trust arrangements across Nottinghamshire.

This commitment builds on the many good examples we already have of multi-agency partnership working at all levels across the children's and young people's partnership. No one agency can improve the health and well being of children and young people on its own and it is only by working together that a genuine and long lasting impact can be made on the health inequalities we have in this county.

The Joint Area Review provides us with an opportunity for rigorous external assessment and measurement of the partnerships progress towards implementing the Every Child Matters agenda and improving the health and well being of children and young people. We would encourage you to share the many excellent examples of integrated working we already have with the JAR Inspectors as they travel around the County.



Examples such as the integrated working that is developing around the county based on the priorities the Partnership has identified through the Children and Young people's Plan.

The interviews during the fieldwork weeks will be a real opportunity to share good practice and identify the high priority both Primary Care Trusts place on services for children and young people.

We are confident this will lead to recognition of the excellent care provided by all colleagues from the multi-agency partnership and make the inspection a worthwhile process.

Joint Area Review

Youth Service Inspection

Within the wider JAR inspection, there will also be a full Ofsted inspection of the Youth Service. Inspectors will observe face to face youth work sessions in up to 20 youth centres and projects across the County and make judgements around:

- The level of young people's achievement and the quality of youth work
- The quality of curriculum and resources
- Overall leadership and management.

Inspectors will also be looking at how well the Service contributes to the wider work of Children's Services, and the overall judgement about youth work will inform the final JAR grades.

With this in mind, staff are working hard right now to ensure that inspectors get an accurate picture of the Service and its work, particularly in terms of the positive contribution that youth work in Nottinghamshire is making to the 14-19 agenda, young people's health, work with disabled young people, support for young people in care, and ensuring young people's effective participation. Inspectors will also be keen to see that the Service is making good progress in developing integrated youth support arrangements, and has established effective partnerships. There is much to

be positive about here, as the Service works well alongside key partners such as Connexions, PCTs and the Youth Offending Service. A new Integrated Youth Support and Development Board has just been established to oversee future joint work.

The Service's Ofsted position statement has already been submitted, and this paints an encouraging picture about the range and quality of youth work provision on offer in Nottinghamshire, and the value that good youth work adds to the lives of many thousands of local young people.

The 14-19 inspection focus

One of our two additional lines of enquiry for the JAR is "The impact of the partners' 14-19 strategy on improving outcomes for young people."

Key successes in this area are:

- Levels of young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) are well below the national average.
- The number of young people completing an apprenticeship is well above national figures.
- A high number of young people with learning difficulties or disabilities have had a section 140 assessment and the % NEET for this group is well below the national average.

- Work based learning success rates have increased dramatically with Acorn e2e a particular success for young people with intensive needs.
- The proportion completing Year 11 and remaining in education and training is higher than the national average.

Of course, we do have some challenges, and issues for exploration include:

- How effectively is the overarching 14-19 strategy managed?
- Is the curriculum offer appropriate? Have the necessary improvements been made to enable the implementation of diplomas?
- Are employers sufficiently engaged? How effective is communication between different groups and partners?
- How are the targets set to improve participation and achievement monitored?

How you can be prepared for the JAR

During the fieldwork weeks from May 12-23, the inspectors will interview managers and elected members, meet focus groups and visit services across the County, talking to staff as well as children and families. The inspectors will confirm a list on April 23 at the end of the analysis week.

The JAR project team has arranged various support events for colleagues with specific roles and they will be contacted individually.

Some important dates:

25th April	for professionals involved with the selected case files
30th April	for some of the colleagues involved in interviews and focus groups
1st May	for lead officers involved in focus groups
2nd May	for partners involved in interviews
7th May	(contingency) for some of the colleagues involved in interviews and focus groups

Please take steps to clear these dates in your diary or support others who may attend the events.

Other ways you can help preparations for the JAR are:

- **Cascade information about the JAR as soon as you receive it**
- **Check the JAR website for updates**
- **Understand the process and how it might affect you and your colleagues**
- **Participate in the process if requested**
- **Look critically at your own service area. What would an inspector see?**
- **Be an ambassador for the Partnership**
- **Be honest about our journey so far and positive about our future together**

Your own organisation will circulate JAR updates to you through your usual communication routes. Briefing sessions for partners have been held across the County and were attended by over 1,000 staff representing all partner agencies. Information is available in the CYP Partnership area of the County Council's website which is regularly updated

www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/jointareareview

In addition, you can contact the JAR team administrator on 0115 977 2276 or e-mail emma.jenkinson@nottsc.gov.uk

Key Dates in 2008

Please note. These dates have been updated and may be subject to further changes.

January	Briefing pack issued by Ofsted requesting a list of 100 'cases' of vulnerable children and young people.
3 March	Setup meeting for senior officers/ members with the Lead Inspector for an outline of the key lines of enquiry for the inspection.
31 March	Submission of CYPP review and Enhanced Youth Inspection self assessment.
16 - 23 April	Analysis Week. Inspectors onsite to review documents and case files. At the end of this week the JAR team will confirm the programme for their fieldwork inspection.
12 - 23 May	Fieldwork Weeks – inspectors undertake a range of evidence gathering activities around Nottinghamshire.
30 June	Draft Report sent to Director of Children's services who then has 10 days to make written comments.
4 July	Meetings with Director of Children's Services and members of the Partnership to discuss findings.
6 August	JAR findings form part of pre-publication report sent to Chief Executive of Nottinghamshire County Council.
9 September	Report is public and published on web sites. Action plan needed within 70 days.

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 Yousaf	Documentation
Emma Jenkinson	Administration
Michèle McIntosh	Communications

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