One minute guide

Joint Targeted Area Inspection—CSE, risk of exploitation—gangs, and missing children

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What is the Joint Targeted Area Inspection—CSE, children associated with gangs and at risk of exploitation and missing children?

As part of the new Ofsted inspection framework ‘Inspection of Local Authority Children’s Services’ (ILACS) (guide) all local authorities may be subject to a Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI). These JTAIs are unannounced thematic inspections and Leeds should expect (alongside any other local authority in England) that we will be chosen for inspection.

The JTAIs are joint inspections carried out by Ofsted, the Care Quality Commission (CQC), Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) and Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Probation. The scope of the inspection is to look at multi-agency arrangements, including identification of risk, the quality and timeliness of assessments, and to carry out a ‘deep dive’ investigation of the response to specific children and young people.

The two sets of themes of JTAIs between February and September 2018 are: Child Sexual Exploitation (and children associated with gangs at risk of exploitation and children missing); and Domestic Abuse. This guide is about Child Sexual Exploitation (gangs and missing); guides are available on the JTAIs for children living with domestic abuse (guide), and neglect (guide).

For the CSE JTAI, the focus is on children and young people at risk of or experiencing CSE, those at risk of or experiencing criminal exploitation through association or involvement with gangs and those who have been missing from home, care or education.

JTAIs have previously been carried out on Domestic Abuse and Child Sexual Exploitation. Reports on the findings from these inspections are available: ‘The multi-agency response to children living with domestic abuse—prevent, protect and repair’; and ‘Time to listen’ - a joined up response to child sexual exploitation and missing children.

How does the inspection work?

There will usually be three inspectors from Ofsted and CQC, four from HMICFRS; and two from HMI Probation; with a lead inspector from Ofsted. Time spent in Leeds would be over a three week period. Notification of inspection will usually take place on a Tuesday before 9:30am through the Lead Inspector contacting the Director of Children’s Services (DCS). The other Inspectorates contact their relevant agencies. A detailed ‘set up’ meeting will take place.

Based on lists of children provided by the local authority, Inspectors will select 20 children, ask for further information about them to be provided and then refine their selection for between five and seven children. Agencies will then be asked to jointly and individually evaluate the experiences of these children and to share the outcomes in the second week.

Each partner agency must provide a range of strategic documents. Inspectors will review effectiveness by case tracking and sampling individual children’s experiences and through interviews. Inspectors will observe planned multi-agency meetings, examine key documents, interview staff, review the partnership evaluations, and meet senior officers and relevant staff involved in services working with children and parents. Inspectors will review evidence against the evaluation criteria, and identify areas of good practice, development and priority action for the partnership and present their findings. Following the inspection, the Inspectorates spend a few weeks writing the letter and findings and taking it through their quality assurance processes before the letter is published on the Ofsted website here.
What are the evaluation criteria?
The full evaluation criteria can be found at point 13 of the guidance document. Here is a summary of the criteria:

All agencies effectively assess risks to missing children (guide). Individual children and families receive support;

All agencies work together effectively to investigate and respond to the circumstances that cause children to be missing. Good quality return home interviews are offered, and analysed at an individual and strategic level to tackle risk;

All agencies effectively assess risks to tackle child sexual exploitation (guide) and criminal exploitation of children by gangs and support those children;

Work with young people who are perpetrators of sexual and/or criminal exploitation, such as those involved with gangs or peer-on-peer exploitation is effective. Children suffering sexual exploitation and/or criminal exploitation by gangs have access to post-abuse therapeutic help and good quality support;

Agencies effectively combat and disrupt sexual and other forms of exploitation of children. Awareness raising and preventative work is in place with the community, businesses, parents and children to alert them to the risks;

Children and their families feel that their views have been heard which leads to improvements in the help and support that they receive;

Schools have effective systems to identify children at risk and make timely referrals to early help (guide) or children’s social care (guide) where appropriate so that support is provided;

The roles and responsibilities of support staff are appropriate, and they receive effective training and support;

Leaders and managers know and understand the experiences of children at risk of sexual exploitation, children at risk of criminal exploitation by gangs and those who go missing from home, care or education, and the prevalence of these issues in their area. They challenge and support practitioners and promote continuous improvement;

Local safeguarding partners actively monitor, promote, coordinate and evaluate the work of partner agencies to help, protect and care for children;

The police force captures preventative work, including how effectively they map patterns and profile the overview of cases, and the quality of the response from local services. Cases of children at risk of sexual exploitation and/or criminal exploitation by gangs are investigated effectively and perpetrators are arrested and prosecuted;

Work with adult offenders on reducing risks of harm to children which may stem from the adult’s offences or their role as a parent/carer is effective.

Key contacts and for more information?
The key contacts are farah.husain@leeds.gov.uk and sara.miles@leeds.gov.uk.

For more information you can look on the LSCB website.

You can also read the One Minute Guides on: Child Sexual Exploitation, and Absent, Missing and Away from Placement.

One minute guides homepage