

Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee

11 February 2019



Joint targeted area inspection (JTAI) of the multi-agency response to domestic abuse in Durham – Progress Update

Report of Corporate Director of Children and Young People's Services

Electoral division(s) affected:

Countywide

Purpose of the Report

- 1 Further to the presentation of the JTAI Action Plan to Members of the Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 11 November 2018, this report provides Members with supporting information in advance of a further presentation which will provide an update on progress against the improvement actions contained within the plan.
- 2 The presentation will be given by Michael Banks, Independent Chair of the Local Safeguarding Children's Board and will seek comment from Members on progress achieved to date.

Executive summary

- 3 Between 9 and 13 July 2018, Ofsted, the Care Quality Commission, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) and HMI Probation undertook a joint inspection of the multi-agency response to domestic abuse in Durham. This inspection included a 'deep dive' focus on the response to children of all ages living with domestic abuse.
- 4 The subsequent JTAI Improvement Action Plan (**Appendix 2**) was developed by partners and submitted to the joint inspectorate on 3rd December 2018.
- 5 The Durham Local Safeguarding Children's Board provides governance and oversight.

Recommendations

- 6 Members of the Children and Young People’s Overview and Scrutiny Committee are requested to receive this report and consider and comment on the presentation.

Background

- 7 On 11 November 2018 Members were provided with a detailed presentation which outlined the areas of improvement identified within the inspection report, together with a copy of the JTAI Improvement Action Plan that was in the process of being prepared submission to the joint inspectorate and which was duly submitted on 3 December 2018 and endorsed by Council’s Cabinet on 12 December 2018.
- 8 The finalised Action Plan is attached at **Appendix 2**. In summary the plan covers 5 thematic improvement areas and contains a total of 108 actions. Of these 62 had a completion timescale on or before December 2018.
- 9 The presentation will provide Members with further detail in relation to progress against the actions that were to be completed within the period from the date of inspection to December 2018.
- 10 In summary, good overall progress has been made against the majority of the actions required within the timescales. A summary is presented in Table 1 below:-

Table 1:

JTAI Improvement Action Plan: Progress against actions with a December 2018 timescale					
NO	THEME	“Green”¹	“Amber”²	“Yellow”³	TOTAL
1.	Priority Action: Strategy Meetings	1	1	1	3
2.	Front Door & MASH	8	3	1	12
3.	Safeguarding Practice & Workforce Development	23	1	0	24
4.	Leadership & Management	11	1	1	13
5.	Voice of the Child	2	0	8	10
TOTALS:		45	6	11	62

¹ Key: Green: Action Complete

² Key: Amber: Actions have commenced but not completed and require further time to embed

³ Key: Yellow: LSCB Executive Group approval to revise timescale

- 11 Of the 62 actions, 45 have been completed, 6 have commenced and require further time for the action to be fully embedded, 11 have had the timescale reviewed to a later date. None of the 11 actions are considered to be a risk to the overall progress of improvement.
- 12 Since the JTAI inspection, Children's Services has been subject of an Ofsted "Focussed Visit" inspection which took place on 10-11 January 2019. This inspection ran over two days and considered the Authority's arrangements for Children in Need and Children in Need of Protection. The final report will be published on 4 February 2019. The initial feedback confirmed there was evidence of progress following the JTAI inspection.

Conclusion

- 13 Members are asked to note information contained within the report and presentation and comment accordingly.

Background papers

None

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Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

The Joint Inspection was carried out under Section 20 of the Children Act 2004. The Local Authority, as the Lead Agency, is required to provide a written response to the findings.

Finance

Actions to address capacity issues identified by inspectors will be required, wherever possible, to be delivered within existing resource

Consultation

None.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

An equality impact screening assessment has been carried out to ensure compliance with the Public Sector Equality Duty.

Human Rights

None.

Crime and Disorder

The criminal justice agencies, including Police, NPS, CRC and YOS, to take required actions to work in partnership to address and tackle the impact of domestic abuse upon children.

Staffing

The MASH review may have staffing implications depending upon the outcome and any actions to address capacity and volume. These will be issues for the partnership to address collectively.

Accommodation

None.

Risk

There is a risk that the actions identified do not deliver the required improvement in safeguarding practice and outcomes for children and families do not improve. The LSCB Executive Group will receive quarterly reports on progress from all partners contributing to the plan and remedial action will be identified and taken where actions are not delivering the required impact.

Procurement

A procurement process may be required to facilitate independent scrutiny and overview of the delivery of the JTAI Improvement Action Plan and provide assurance that the required impact has been achieved.