

# **CHILDREN'S SERVICES DIRECTORATE**

## **NEWSLETTER**

### **CHANGE FOR CHILDREN IN HEREFORDSHIRE**

#### **INSPECTION UPDATE**

The Joint Area Review of Children's Services in Herefordshire timetable has now been confirmed and is attached with an outline for your information.

It is very linked to the Comprehensive Performance Assessment of the whole Council and there will be one inspector who is part of both teams.

The CPA is an overall assessment of the Council and covers the following themes:-

- Ambition
- Prioritisation
- Capacity
- Performance Management
- Healthier Communities
- Safer and Stronger
- Sustainable Communities
- Outcomes for Older People
- Outcomes for Children and Young People

There will be two sessions in April - 13th and 14th - for gathering of intelligence from all stakeholders to inform the self-assessment of Herefordshire's performance in relation to the 42 key judgements.

The invites and programme for these sessions will be with you all soon. There will also be more briefings on what the Joint Area Review means for all of us. Partnership and Diversity/Disadvantage are among the key themes on lines of inquiry.

Recent service inspections will inform the focus of the JAR. Those inspections relevant to children and young people locally are:-

Adult Learning Inspection, Area Wide Inspection - 14-19 Provision, Youth Offending Service, Fostering and now Adoption due in June 2005.

So, this is certainly the year of inspection and you will see that the Youth Service is to be a particular focus in the Autumn.

## **PRIORITIES CONVERSATION**

This is the regional discussion with us, to confirm the Herefordshire priorities on the local Change for Children programme.

The meeting with regional colleagues was held on 1st March and Herefordshire presented the following priorities for consideration:-

- ✓ **Setting up a Children & Young People Partnership Board**
- ✓ **Creating a shadow Local Safeguarding Board**
- ✓ **Continue current developments in integrating front-line services:**
  - children's centres
  - extended schools
  - children with disabilities
  - child protection – co-location
- ✓ **Explore the feasibility of different integration models:**
  - South Wye
  - other rural localities
- ✓ **Continue the implementation of the Child Concern Model, strengthening the “consultant” roles in each agency/sector and building confidence in the justice and schools sector**
- ✓ **Further develop the information sharing and information management approaches**
- ✓ **Examine performance in the key areas:**
  - re-registrations on the child protection register
  - life chances of children looked after, particularly school absence/attendance
  - special needs – statements done within the required timescales
  - attendance/achievement of vulnerable children and young people, in both education and employment
- ✓ **Check if improvement plans have delivered or whether new effort and resources needs to be applied both in terms of data quality and service delivery.**

These priorities are subject to review by the new **Partnership Board for Children and Young People**. The Board will launch its work on 15th March and more information will come following the first meeting.

**SUE FIENNES,  
DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

March 2005



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## Timelines for the Joint Corporate Assessment–Joint Area Review

Stage	September 2005
First meeting/ conference	21 March 2005
Self assessment returned (JAR)	13 June 2005
Set up meeting (joint)	From: 6 June 05
Self assessment returned (CA)	By: 18 July 2005
Analysis week (JAR)	5 September 2005 to 9 September 2005
Challenge meeting (CA)	9 September 2005
Fieldwork	26 September 2005 to 7 October 2005
Report writing	10 October 2005 to 21 October 2005
Draft report sent to council/partners for comment	4 November 2005
Comment received by inspectorates	By: 18 November 2005
Feedback meeting	2 December 2005
Publication	15 December 2005

# Every Child Matters Change for Children



## Integrated Inspection of Children's Services

The five outcomes for all children and young people

- Being healthy
- Staying safe
- Enjoying and achieving
- Making a positive contribution
- Achieving economic well-being



Making Social Care  
Better for People



### What are Children's Services?

All publicly-funded provision for children and young people children and young people aged 0-19. These include:

- Universal services (e.g. nursery education, schools, health clinics & GP surgeries, youth centres and colleges).
- Targeted services (e.g. educational welfare services & detached youth work).
- Services for the most vulnerable children and young people (e.g. fostering for children in public care and CAMHS).

### How will these be inspected?

Many providers will receive their own inspections or reviews.

- Early Years settings, schools and colleges will be inspected every three years.
- Inspections will continue of other education providers such as in prisons and young offender institutions.
- There will be thematic reviews of aspects of health service provision.
- There will be inspections of services such as support for young people in the judicial system.

### So what's new?

A joint area review of provision for children and young people in each local area during 2005-2008 conducted , where possible, at the same time as CPA corporate assessment.

A report describing and analysing the outcomes for children and young people in the area, sometimes comparing this with other areas or with the national average.

The review team will:

- Pay particular attention to vulnerable groups, such as children and young people with learning difficulties and disabilities.
- Focus on at least one neighbourhood in the area to see how local policies are put into effect on the ground.
- Study case histories of a number of children and young people who have received particular support to see how effective this has been.

The report will:

- Judge how good local services are at improving life for children and young people and at working together to achieve this.
- Comment on the work of publicly-funded voluntary and community services as well as statutory services such as health, social care and education.
- Incorporate recent inspection findings (e.g. local schools and residential settings).

### How will judgements be made?

The outcomes for children and young people will be measured using the same indicators in every area. They include, for instance, public health data, educational statistics and information about crime, leisure activity, and housing. Inspection teams will be sensitive to the local context when analysing the significance of various indicators and will identify trends where possible. Expectations of what local services should do to improve outcomes have been defined and an inspection toolkit [www.ofsted.gov.uk/everychildconsultation](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/everychildconsultation) specifies levels of adequacy in each of these. Inspection teams will form their own judgements, subject to a moderation process, about the quality of provision in each area.

### Is this inspection being done to an area or done with an area?

The inspectorates and commissions have statutory powers to do this work and will pursue relevant issues as they think fit in order to arrive at objective judgements. However, they will take very seriously the self-assessment done in advance by the local area, and will try to ensure that the inspection forms part of the normal improvement process conducted by the local services. Local areas will be able to comment on the inspection findings, but after consideration of their response the inspectorates will come to a final view. Local areas and councils are expected to build the findings of Joint Area Reviews and Annual Performance Assessment into their own improvement processes. Where there is evidence of high standards and steady improvement in an area there will be less need for inspection.

### How will children and young people get their say?

A sample of children and young people will be asked to respond to a questionnaire about life in their area. Where feasible, the review team will meet representative young people and will always take their views into account when coming to judgements. The review team will expect services in the local area to have discussed their provision with children and young people and to be able to show how they are meeting their needs.

### What is meant by “integrated inspection”?

The participating inspectorates and commissions will use a common methodology which they have developed jointly. During each Joint Area Review the members of different inspectorates will work as a team and the findings will be agreed by all team members. They will draw on the evidence of all recent institutional inspections undertaken by all inspectorates or commissions. The team will produce a unified view of outcomes for children and young people, identifying the main issues according to their significance for the locality.

### Does it mean council services will no longer be inspected?

No. Their services for children and young people will be assessed annually by an Annual Performance Assessment. Judgements will also be made annually about their educational and social care work respectively. As in the Joint Area Review, attention will focus on the effectiveness of services and their management will also be evaluated. In order to make efficient use of evidence the joint area review will be conducted at the same time as the corporate assessment. The grades will be included in the overall comprehensive performance assessment

### Sounds like more inspection!

There will be less inspection than in the past, because several current forms of inspection will be dropped to make way for Joint Area Reviews. Their function will be carried out more economically by these reviews. Also, the Joint Area Review itself will be very efficient because it will accomplish much by analysing existing data and there will only be visits or interviews where absolutely necessary.

### The four judgement levels

Grade 4—delivers well above minimum requirements;  
Grade 2—delivers minimum requirements;

Grade 3—consistently delivers above minimum requirements;  
Grade 1—does not deliver minimum requirements

## Overall purpose of the inspection

- to describe and analyse what life is like for children and young people in each local area
- to evaluate the effectiveness of local services in improving the outcomes for children and young people

The five outcomes	Activities contributing to outcomes
<p><b><u>Being healthy</u></b></p> <p>Children and young people are: physically, mentally, emotionally and sexually healthy; have healthy lifestyles; and choose not to take illegal drugs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parents and carers receive the advice they need to keep their children healthy</li> <li>• Children and young people recognise the risks to health</li> <li>• Environmental health risks are minimised</li> <li>• Children and young people's health needs are identified and assessed at an early stage</li> <li>• Children and young people are physically healthy</li> <li>• Children and young people are mentally healthy</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Staying safe</u></b></p> <p>Children and young people are: safe from accidental injury and death; safe from maltreatment, neglect, violence and sexual exploitation; are safe from bullying and discrimination; safe from crime and anti-social behaviour and have security and stability.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children and young people and their carers are informed about key risks and how to deal with them</li> <li>• Steps are taken to provide children and young people with a safe environment</li> <li>• Steps are taken to minimise the incidence of child abuse and neglect</li> <li>• Child protection arrangements meet the requirements of <i>Working Together to Safeguard Children</i></li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Enjoying and achieving</u></b></p> <p>Children are ready for school; children and young people attend and enjoy school; achieve educational standards at primary school; achieve personal and social development and enjoy recreation; and achieve educational standards at secondary school.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parents and carers are supported in helping children and young people to enjoy and achieve</li> <li>• Early years provision prepares children for school and helps them meet early learning goals</li> <li>• Children and young people attend and enjoy school</li> <li>• Children and young people are supported in developing personally and academically</li> <li>• Action is taken to ensure that settings provide good quality education</li> <li>• The needs of children unable to attend school are met</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Making a positive contribution</u></b></p> <p>Children and young people: engage in decision-making, and support the community and environment; engage in law-abiding and positive behaviour; develop positive relationships and choose not to bully and discriminate; develop self-confidence and successfully deal with significant changes and challenges; and develop enterprising behaviour.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children and young people and their carers are helped to develop socially and emotionally</li> <li>• Children and young people are helped to manage changes and respond to challenges in their lives</li> <li>• Children and young people are encouraged to participate in decision making and to support the community</li> <li>• Action is taken to reduce anti-social behaviour</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Achieving economic well being</u></b></p> <p>Young people: engage in further education, employment or training on leaving school; are ready for employment; children and young people live in decent homes and sustainable communities; have access to transport and material goods; and live in households free from low-income.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Day care is available to meet the needs of parents in work or seeking work</li> <li>• Young people are prepared for working life</li> <li>• Action is taken to ensure that 14-19 education is planned in a coordinated way</li> <li>• Action is taken to ensure that settings provide good quality education</li> <li>• Community regeneration initiatives address the needs of children and young people and their families</li> <li>• Families and young people have access to decent homes.</li> </ul>

