

Working Together to Safeguard Children

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Care Quality
Commission



Joint targeted area inspections

Joint targeted area inspection

- Joint targeted area inspections (JTAI) are carried out by:
 - Ofsted
 - Care Quality Commission (CQC)
 - Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary, Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS)
 - Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation (HMI Probation).
- Under section 20 of the Children Act 2004.
- Recognition that while local authorities play a key role in child protection this is the responsibility of all agencies working with children.

`Deep dive' themes

- Child sexual exploitation and children missing from home, care or education (February – July 2016): selected as it was a cross-government priority.
- Consulted with inspectors, government and stakeholders to agree the next three `deep dive' themes:
 - children living with domestic abuse: completed (September 2016 – March 2017)
 - older children experiencing neglect: completed (July – December 2017).
 - child sexual abuse in the family environment (ongoing)
- The programme has returned to previous `deep dive' themes to see how practice has moved forward since the publication of the overview reports:
 - the experiences of children at risk of exploitation
 - children living with domestic abuse.

'Deep dive' themes

- The scope of the child exploitation 'deep dive' investigation was widened to include children who are at risk of other forms of exploitation through gang association.
- Responding to criminal exploitation by gangs and 'county lines' gang activity.
- Recognised relationship in some cases between risk of child sexual exploitation and gang association.
- Published report: 'Protecting children from criminal exploitation, human trafficking and modern slavery: an addendum'.

'Deep dive' themes

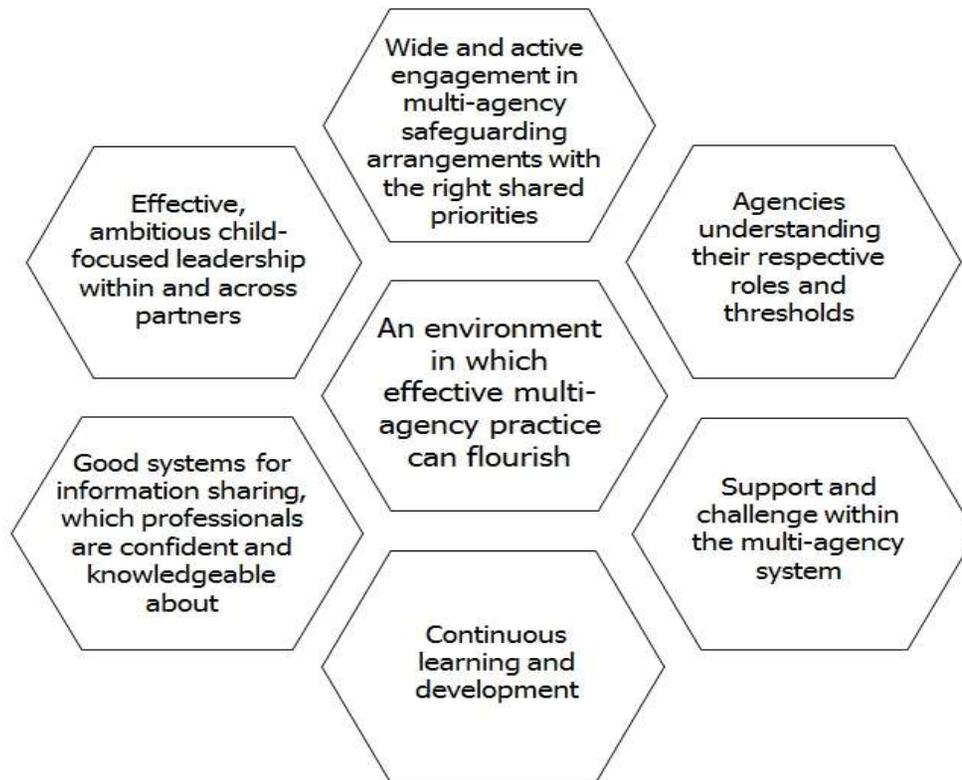
- The next three JTAI 'deep dive' themes' are:
 - multi-agency response to children at risk of mental health issues
 - effectiveness of prevention and early intervention at reducing current and future risks to children and meeting their needs
 - multi-agency response to older children in need of help and protection focussing on contextual safeguarding including exploitation.
- There will be six JTAIs for each theme. During this period we will also complete up to four JTAIs that revisit some earlier 'deep dive' themes.

'Multi-agency safeguarding arrangements

- Safeguarding children requires a multi-agency response: it cannot be done by any agency alone.
- This is true across all aspects of safeguarding arrangements: from the frontline through to leaders determining local strategic and operational responses to child protection issues.
- We must get this right for all children who experience abuse or neglect. What is critical is:
 - shared vision and shared values
 - being ambitious to secure the very best responses to children at risk of harm in their community
 - clear line of sight on both the operational and strategic response locally: agencies need to know the quality of their frontline practice
 - understand the direct experiences of children and their families in their local area.

Components of successful partnerships

We identified components for effective multi-agency working through our JTAs:





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'Protecting children from criminal exploitation, human trafficking and modern slavery: an addendum'

Learning so far: protecting children from criminal exploitation

- Report covers the findings from three JTAIs, carried out in spring 2018 that examined 'the multi-agency response to child exploitation and children missing from home, care or education'.
- It calls for agencies to learn the lessons of the past in responding to criminal exploitation of children and 'county lines'.
- All children are vulnerable to exploitation, and agencies, locally and nationally, do not yet fully understand the scale or level of risk to children.
- Family-focused services are not always appropriate for dealing with the exploitation of children outside of a family setting – agencies need to be flexible and respond quickly to changing risks.

Learning so far: protecting children from criminal exploitation

- Many children who were both criminally and sexually exploited by the gang or the individual running the 'county line'. We also found examples where sexual violence was used as a form of punishment.
- All criminally exploited children are at risk of neglect, emotional harm, sexual exploitation and abuse, as well as substance misuse and extreme forms of violence.
- The trauma caused by intimidation, violence, witnessing drug use or overdoses and continued threats to themselves or to family members leads to significant mental and physical ill-health of exploited children.

Key ingredients for protecting children from criminal exploitation

- Raising awareness.
- Recognition and response to early signs.
- Holistic assessment.
- 'Stay with' children who do not want to engage.
- Stable relationship with a professional.
- Working together in local partnerships.
- Using intelligence and information well to understand local risk.
- Working together strategically across regions.
- Training and information for professionals.
- Learning the lessons from the past.
- Working with the police to disrupt exploitation.

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