



Bristol Health and Wellbeing Board

Title of Report:	Joint Targeted Area Inspection
Author (including organisation):	Ann James, Director Children and Families Services, Bristol City Council (on behalf of Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership)
Date of Board meeting:	
Purpose:	Information and discussion

1. Executive Summary

This report is to brief the Health and Wellbeing Board on joint targeted area inspections (JTAI) of arrangements and services for children in need of help and protection in local authority areas in England. These inspections are undertaken by Ofsted, the Care Quality Commission (CQC), Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Service (HMICFRS) and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation (HMI Probation).

JTAIs are carried out under section 20 of the Children Act 2004. They are an inspection of multi-agency arrangements for:

- the response to all forms of child abuse, neglect and exploitation at the point of identification
- the quality and impact of assessment, planning and decision making in response to notifications and referrals
- protecting children and young people at risk of a specific type (or types) of harm, or the support and care of children looked after and/or care leavers (evaluated through a deep dive investigation into the experiences of these children)
- the leadership and management of this work
- the effectiveness of local safeguarding arrangements in relation to this work.

Inspectors evaluate children's experiences against a full range of the criteria, looking for strengths, areas for improvement and examples of innovative and effective practice.

Some JTAIs inspect responses to all forms of child abuse, neglect and exploitation but others focus on a specific type (or types) of harm. The theme from September 2019 is children and young people's experiences living with mental ill health with a focus those aged 10 to 15 years old. The inspection framework and guidance is found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/joint-inspections-of-arrangements-and-services-for-children-in-need-of-help-and-protection>

And the thematic guidance for children's mental health is found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/joint-targeted-area-inspections-on-the-theme-of-childrens-mental-health>

2. Purpose of the Paper

- To inform the Health and Wellbeing Board of the statutory framework for JTAI which may include scrutiny of their partnership and single agency delivery against the framework should Bristol be chosen.

- To highlight opportunities for development and improvement in provision of mental health services for children and young people learning from initial inspection reports.
- To outline the need for close alignment between Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership and the Health and Wellbeing Board.
- For Health and Wellbeing Board members to identify and take any necessary actions back to their individual organisations

3. Evidence Base

As of today's date three local authority areas have had a children's mental health thematic JTAI published. Appendix 1 outlines markers for good quality practice for partners to consider. The first column is populated with the evidence gathered from these inspections, the second and third columns allow partners to evaluate their organisations practice and evidence of impact.

The framework enables us to capture evidence of strength in the partnership offer to children including initiatives such as the co-located Primary Mental Health Specialists in Children's Social Work and Families in Focus teams.

Quality Assurance and Performance information has highlighted a number of areas for improvement to the Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership over the last two years. It would be helpful for organisations to hold these findings in mind when undertaking this activity to capture what progress has been made by the partnership in these areas:

Learning from the Child Death Overview Panel

The last Child Death Review Annual Report 2017-2018 highlighted a theme of recurrent factors in under-18s dying by suicide in cases from 2015-2018. The review found that:

- During review of this group of deaths, it was recognised that the golden thread throughout all the cases was education and the importance of supporting children and young people in this setting. Questions were raised in each case relating to education
- Press intrusion following inquests which is largely out of the Coroner's control but can add to families' distress
- The expert in child suicide that attended this CDOP meeting highlighted that previous suicide in the family is associated with an increased incidence of suicide in children and young people
- At the time of the previous suicide themed CDOP in May 2015, the PSHE programme was not statutory. All agreed in this meeting that PSHE was a vital part of school education particularly regarding child sexual exploitation, and they were reassured that Sex and Relationship Education is now to become statutory, although content has not yet been agreed nationally
- Over the course of the last two suicide themed CDOP meetings, one issue that has been highlighted is that often the child's friends are more aware of their true feelings/intentions than family or professionals. This again highlighted the importance of emotional support in an educational setting and students feeling confident to signpost friends appropriately or disclose concerns to school staff

The CDOP Annual Report 2017-18 found that an emotional, behavioural or mental health condition in a parent or carer was identified as contributing to the ill-health, vulnerability or

death of the child in 3% of deaths reviewed. Mental health issues include maternal or paternal depression, previous self-harm and previous suicide attempts.

Performance Information and Quality Assurance

The Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership is aware of increasing numbers of children being assessed under section 2 of the Mental Health Act. AMHP service has received 30 requests to assess young people under the MHA in the past year. A review of these cases found that the majority of these children are not known to children social care and many are presenting in distress out of hours. This raises opportunities to develop the partnership's prevention offer for children and to work together to improve our out of hours' crisis provision for under-18s and their families.

In the last 18 months the Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership has commissioned two learning reviews in respect of children who were experiencing significant mental ill health. Both highlighted issues in relation to local inpatient bed sufficiency which contributed to the children's harm. One review, currently underway, is also highlighting challenges in care coordination for a child in care who lived outside of the Bristol area.

Recent quality assurance activity of the response to children impacted by forced criminality and county lines identified opportunities to improve the accessibility of the mental health offer for boys and young men given the impact of early trauma evidence in most of these children's lives. Bristol City Council Children and Families Services have undertaken a system-wide quality assurance practice day of their service's understanding and practice in respect of children experiencing mental ill health involving collaborative audits with staff, feedback from children and families, focus groups and review of performance data. The Strategic Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Manager is available to share methodology with partners, should they wish to undertake a similar exercise within their own service.

4. Recommendations

- For partners at the Health and Wellbeing Board to consider their evidence for and contribution to a mental health focussed JTAI
- For partners to evaluate their organisations, and the partnership's, practice and evidence of impact against the indicators of best practice
- For partners at the Health and Wellbeing Board to use the findings of the JTAs to develop and assure their health and wellbeing strategy for children experiencing mental ill health within their organisations

5. City Benefits

This proposal tests interagency working and identifies best practice to improve how we work together to support and protect children and young people.

6. Financial and Legal Implications

Not applicable

7. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Good Practice Markers