

REPORT TO: Health and Wellbeing Board

Date of Meeting: 27th September 2016
Report of: Kath O'Dwyer, Deputy Chief Executive and Director of People's Services
Subject/Title: Joint Targeted Area Inspection on Domestic Abuse

1 Report Summary

- 1.1. This report informs the Health and Wellbeing Board of the new Joint Targeted Area Inspection framework for children living with domestic abuse.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Health and Wellbeing Board is recommended to:
- a) Note the contents of this report, and the implications of the inspection framework for the Health and Wellbeing Board, and it's members,
 - b) Recommend to partner agencies that activity to support service improvement and inspection preparation is prioritised across the partnership.
 - c) Endorse that an update report will be received by the Health and Wellbeing Board in 6 months' time.

3 Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 The Health and Wellbeing Board has a statutory responsibility to improve the health and wellbeing of the children, young people and their families in Cheshire East, and promote the integration of services. This includes services for children and young people living with domestic abuse.
- 3.2 Joint Targeted Area Inspections (JTAs) will assess our effectiveness as a local area in identifying and meeting the needs of children and young people under a specific theme. The theme for the next six months from the beginning of September 2016 to the end of March 2017 is children living with domestic abuse.

- 3.3 It is important that the Health and Wellbeing Board is informed of the new theme for the JTAs, and is assured that arrangements are in place to develop our services for these children and young people, and their families.
- 3.4 Clear governance arrangements are in place which drive, implement and scrutinise developments to these services. The Cheshire East Domestic Abuse Partnership Board (CEDAP), led by the Head of Service for Children's Safeguarding, is driving developments to domestic abuse services. Inspection preparation activity has been aligned with service development activity and is being overseen by this Board.
- 3.5 An action plan is in place to ensure that we are prepared for inspection, which includes;
- Completing a self-assessment of the quality of our services to inform the priority areas for development and to demonstrate that we have a good understanding of our strengths and areas for improvement,
 - Communication and engagement with key stakeholders on plans for and progress in developing services, and the inspection framework,
 - Collating key sources of evidence and information on our services to inform the inspection,
 - Refresh of the JSNA section on domestic abuse, and
 - Quality assurance of casework.

4 Impact on Health and Wellbeing Strategy Priorities

- 4.1 Outcome one of *The Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy for the Population of Cheshire East 2014 - 2016*, 'Starting and Developing Well' sets out the Health and Wellbeing Board's priority to ensure that children and young people have the best start in life; they and their families or carers are supported to feel healthy and safe, reach their full potential and are able to feel part of where they live and involved in the services they receive.

5 Background and Options

- 5.1 The framework and guidance for the Joint Targeted Area Inspection on domestic abuse was published on 10th August 2016.
- 5.2 The inspection is a **local area** inspection reviewing the quality of our joint working arrangements and the impact on outcomes for children and young

people. It reviews services offered and commissioned by the local authority, health, police and probation.

- 5.3 All JTAs review the effectiveness of the front door. They evaluate the effectiveness of our multi-agency arrangements in:
- 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
- 5.4 For the purpose of this inspection, the term living with domestic abuse includes: children who are currently living where there are incidents of domestic abuse or where there is risk of incidents of domestic abuse taking place; and children seeing or hearing domestic abuse outside of their home or witnessing the effects of domestic abuse on others.
- 5.5 Inspectors will evaluate the effectiveness of interventions for adult perpetrators and victims of domestic abuse in relation to the impact this has on the welfare and protection of children.
- 5.6 The inspection will evaluate the effectiveness of our joint arrangements for:
- Protecting children and young people at risk due to domestic abuse
 - Leading and managing work in relation to domestic abuse
 - The Local Safeguarding Children Board's (LSCB) coordination of partnership working, scrutiny and direction in relation to domestic abuse
- 5.7 Prior to inspection, our Joint Strategic Needs Analysis (JSNA) and will be reviewed to evaluate our consideration of the needs of children and young people who are living with domestic abuse. The JSNA section on domestic abuse is currently being refreshed to ensure that they provide a robust assessment of needs within Cheshire East.
- 5.8 The inspection will involve three Ofsted inspectors, three inspectors from the Care Quality Commission (CQC), three inspectors from Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC), and two inspectors from Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation (HMI Probation).
- 5.9 We will receive 9 days advance notice of the inspection before inspectors arrive onsite. The notification of inspection is on Tuesday morning before 9.30am (week 1). The inspection will last for 5 days from Monday-Friday in the

third week. Documentation to support inspection will be requested in advance of the inspection, and a joint audit of practice for between five and seven cases selected by inspectors will need to be completed and provided to inspectors in week 2. The list of documentation required is specified in the framework.

- 5.10 The child's journey for these five to seven cases will be tracked in depth by inspectors during the inspection. Additional cases will also be sampled and reviewed while the inspectors are onsite in week 3.
- 5.11 The inspection will involve meetings with professionals at all levels, observation of practice within teams and in multi-agency meetings for children, discussion with children and young people, parents and carers on their views of our service, and reviewing casework and supervision.
- 5.12 A judgement will not be given but there will be a letter published in week 9 on the area's strengths and areas for improvement.

6 Access to Information

- 6.1 The framework and guidance for Joint Targeted Area Inspections is available on the website <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/joint-inspections-of-arrangements-and-services-for-children-in-need-of-help-and-protection>
- 6.2 The guidance for the theme of children living with domestic abuse is available on the website <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/joint-inspections-of-the-response-to-children-living-with-domestic-abuse-september-2016-to-march-2017>

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer:

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