

**Report for:** CYPS Scrutiny Panel 8 November 2018

**Item number:**

**Title:** Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI) Action Plan – Update



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**Ward(s) affected:** NA

## 1. Describe the issue under consideration

This report is a brief update on the work carried out since the JTAI inspection held in December 2017.

## 2. Background

2.1 In December 2017 Haringey was subject to a Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI) which included a deep dive into the partnership response to children aged between 7 and 15 who had been neglected. The inspection team included Inspectors from Ofsted, the Care Quality Commission (CQC), Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation (HMI Probation) which represented the statutory partners in safeguarding in the borough.

### 2.2 What is Neglect?

*"The persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health and development. Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance misuse. Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to:*

- *provide adequate food, clothing and shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment)*
- *protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger*
- *ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate care-givers)*
- *ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment*
- *meet the child's emotional needs."*

2.3 During the course of the inspection, Inspectors tracked and sampled case audits and the experiences of children and young people. Tracking is an in-depth, end-to-end look at the experiences of children and young people. Sampling is a more targeted look at the experiences of a greater number of children, focusing on

particular points in these children's journeys.

- 2.4 Following the conclusion of the JTAI statutory partners, including the local authority, were required to respond with a written statement of action designed to address the areas of improvement identified in the published JTAI letter. A combined statement of action (action plan) was submitted to Ofsted on 11 May by the Director of Children's Services.
- 2.5 Since then the partnership group has worked together to develop the structure and content of the action plan with a focus on achieving measurable outcomes for children, improving knowledge and skills in the workforce and the process and pathways for service delivery. Partners have met regularly and will continue meeting on a bi-monthly basis until such time that all partners are assured that there is significant sustained progress in tackling neglect in the child population in the borough.
- 2.6 At these monthly meetings, partners challenge each other's progress against the stated aims in the action plan. To conclude actions, each partners must, through data or other quality assurance activity, produce evidence to support their position that the proposed actions has been achieved and gain agreement from the rest of the group as confirmation. So that actions are embedded and sustained partners must also provide a sustainability plan for review and attend each meeting.
- 2.7 Since the inspection there have been notable improvements in the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH). The MASH has increased in size and capacity to deliver a partnership approach to safeguarding. Health partners and territorial police are providing increased professional time by experts in different elements of safeguarding. For example, the police are providing more officers who deal with gangs and sexual exploitation. Two independent reviews of the service have confirmed the improved approach and that no child waits for a service.
- 2.8 There have been six multi-agency training sessions on how to identify neglect and the thresholds for referral of a concern to the MASH. The LSCB has agreed a new Neglect Strategy and an accompanying Neglect tool kit to identify and analyse neglect for use by all practitioners and their managers in the partnership.
- 2.9 Members will be aware that Ofsted are in the process of undertaking a full inspection of the authority under the new framework for Inspections of Local Authority Children's Services (ILACS). The inspection commenced on 22 October and will finish on 9 November. The combined action plan for the JTAI will inform the key lines of enquiry (KLOEs) during this inspection. A report on the outcome of the ILACS inspection will be presented to Scrutiny Members in February, following publication of the report in December.

### **3. Contribution to strategic outcomes**

This report contributes to Priority 1 "Enable every child and young person to have the best start in life, with high quality education". This consists of six

objectives. The JTAI directly relates to Objective 6 “all children and young people will be safeguarded from abuse”.

#### **4. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985**

JTAI Haringey Letter - [Haringey JTAI](#)

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