



Children Leeds Inspection Update September 2009

Children Leeds

the Leeds Initiative

Local partnerships making things happen



This presentation covers:

- Outline of new inspection framework
- Share lessons from our recent unannounced inspection
- Outline preparation for an announced inspection
- Your role



New Ofsted and CAA Inspection framework

- Published 13th May 2009
- Significantly harder test and different from previous inspection process
- Replaces JAR and APA assessment and CPA judgements
- Less quantitative and more qualitative
- Less notification and faster process
- Stronger emphasis on frontline



New Ofsted and CAA Inspection framework

CAA Profile for Children's Services

- Block A – Inspections of regulated services and settings (e.g. schools)
- Block B – Inspections of safeguarding and services for LAC (unannounced and announced)
- Block C – ECM indicators



Headlines from Unannounced Inspection 21 to 22 July and Action Taken to date.



Overview of the inspection

- Unannounced inspection 21 to 22 July of contact, referral and assessment services
- Inspection focussed on two social care offices and the Contact Centre
- Verbal feedback raised range of issues – some for immediate action
- Result will impact on timing of announcement of inspection (Safeguarding and Looked After Children) – likely to be sooner rather than later
- Further unannounced inspection is possible



What the unannounced inspection found

Initial reading of 23 records found 7 children identified as being left at potential serious risk of harm.

- **Several key areas for development**

- performance management;
- QA and case file audit;
- inconsistent assessment;
- record keeping;
- performance worsening and electronic data flawed; and
- quality of supervision is variable.

- **Identified areas for priority action**

- Response to child protection referrals does not meet statutory guidance and does not ensure that children are adequately safeguarded.
- During the initial reading of records, children were identified as having been left at potential serious risk of harm.



Action taken to date

- The inspection identified 7 cases for immediate action. All acted on with all children now safe
- Revised Section 47 guidance issued 6th August 2009
- Immediate quality assurance of decision making on all new child abuse and neglect referrals
- Review of 1600 child abuse and neglect cases since 1st April 2009 now complete



Action taken to date (continued)

- Strengthened management of fieldwork services
- Quality assurance framework established
- Accelerating other work already under way that will impact on the number of referrals to social care
- Working with contact centre to develop appropriate routes for referrals
 - Thresholds guidance
 - Integration work



Your role

- Raise awareness of findings and actions taken to date
- Contribute to actions e.g. implementing thresholds, using CAF
- Look out for key messages
- Let us know if there is anything else that you need



Overview of the Framework for the Announced Inspection of Safeguarding and Services for Looked After Children



Announced Inspections of Safeguarding and Looked After Children

- Outcomes focused on the evaluation of impact and quality of services provided
- Focused heavily on the quality of frontline services



Main focus of safeguarding aspect

- Local policies and procedures comply with statutory guidance and regulation
- How well local agencies work together
- How well local policies support good practice
- Evaluate the impact of LSCB and children's trust arrangements on outcomes for children
- Evaluate the impact of the Corporate Carer Board



Main focus of Looked After Children aspect

- Outcomes achieved
- Impact of services
- Quality of risk management
- Quality of care planning and review
- Placement stability
- Safeguarding
- Access and attendance at school
- Support for families and carers
- Effectiveness of corporate parenting
- Preparation for leaving care



How inspection will happen

- Maximum 10 days notice
- Pre-meeting four days after notification
- Provision of background documents
- Case lists and audit of files
- Programme of visits and focus groups
- Report received and published quickly



Methods of inspection

- **Surveys**
 - Looked After Children and Care Leavers
 - Annual Survey of Social Workers
- **Case files**
 - List of children required from ESCR
 - Random selection of case files (c 80) for scrutiny
 - Local Authority case file audit work and report
- **Focus groups and interviews**
- **Site visits**



Announced Inspection: Prep.

- Steering Group and supporting teams established
- Service self-evaluations and overarching self evaluations of safeguarding and LAC, and collation of the supporting evidence
- Service case file reviews
- Development of joint case file audit processes and guidance
- Threshold guidance
- Acceleration of integrated working developments



Your role

- Service self-evaluations and supporting evidence
- Be clear what “good” looks like
- Look out for key messages and share with staff
- Highlight quickly any areas of concern or decreasing performance
- **Contribute to:**
 - Working groups
 - Focus groups
 - The collection of evidence