

Joint Targeted Area Inspections (JTAs)

7-MINUTE BRIEFING

1. What is a JTA?

A Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTA) is an inspection framework for evaluating the services of vulnerable children & young people. It is conducted jointly by Ofsted, Care Quality Commission (CQC), Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP). Each JTA includes a specific 'deep dive' safeguarding theme.

2. What Happens During the inspection?

The inspections look at how well local agencies work together in an area to protect children. The inspection will take place over 3 weeks; the Inspectorate will be onsite for the third week during the inspection schedule. Inspectors will focus on the multi-agency response to one of the following three safeguarding themes:

- The 'front door' of child protection
- Early help and the experiences of children in need.
- Criminal exploitation of children

3. What Methodology is Used?

The inspections look at how well local agencies work together in an area to protect children. The inspection will triangulate evidence from tracking and children's experiences, views from children and their families, observing practice, talking to practitioners, and gathering information from individual agencies.

4. How are we preparing for a JTA?

The Stoke-on-Trent Safeguarding Children Partnership will be working together to establish contacts for each partner during a JTA.

Multi-agency audits will take place in preparation.

A plan is being prepared to help gather information in preparation for a JTA.

5. What do I need to do?

Ensure that records are kept up to date.

Demonstrate that children's needs are understood and supported appropriately.

Evidence information sharing, working in partnership and effective communication.

Evidence the impact and outcomes for children and families we work with.

Take the opportunity to showcase the excellent work that is done to safeguard children.

6. How do I find out about the outcome?

At the end of the on-site inspection, the inspectors will meet with the senior leaders of the local safeguarding partnership to share key findings. The findings will be in the form of a narrative rather than graded judgements and will include strengths and areas for development and any areas of priority action.

7. Where Can I Find Further Information?

Joint targeted area inspection of the multi-agency response to children and families who need help - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

New frameworks for joint targeted area inspections (JTAs) - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Professionals (stoke.gov.uk)