

JTAI Action Plan

Date: 4th September 2024

Report of: Director of Children and Families

Report to: Children and Families Scrutiny Board

Will the decision be open for call in? Yes No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? Yes No

Brief summary

The report provides details of the partnership action plan in response to the findings of the Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI) of the multi-agency response to serious youth violence in Leeds.

This inspection took place from 4 to 8 March 2024 and was carried out by inspectors from Ofsted, the Care Quality Commission (CQC), His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) and His Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP). The inspection report was published on 16th May 2024.

The duty is on Leeds City Council as the principal authority to prepare a written statement of proposed action responding to the findings outlined in the inspection report. This should be a multi-agency response involving the individuals and agencies that this report is addressed to. The response should set out the actions for the partnership and, when appropriate, individual agencies. The local safeguarding partners should oversee implementation of the action plan through their local multiagency safeguarding arrangements. Leeds City Council needs to send the written statement of action to OFSTED by 23 August 2024. This statement will inform the lines of enquiry at any future joint or single-agency activity by the inspectorates. For purpose of clarity, this statement will be referred to as the action plan throughout this report.

Recommendations

- Scrutiny is asked to note and endorse the action plan.

What is this report about?

1. Following the JTAI inspection on Serious Youth Violence in Leeds in March 2024, the JTAI inspection report was published in May 2024. The JTAI inspection report highlighted several areas of strengths in relation to how services in Leeds respond to serious youth violence. These included a theme of reassurance in relation to partnership working around safeguarding and decision making for children and young people. The inspection also identified three main areas of improvement around police protection notifications, CAMHS waiting times, and multi-agency audits.

2. Strengths:

- Strong multi-agency relationships with a shared vision and culture, both strategically and operationally, resulting in effective communication and effective partnership working.
- Collation and analysis of data across the partnership has informed a detailed strategic needs assessment and action plan.
- Targeted multi-agency interventions and projects across the city are helping to divert children away from youth violence and support children affected by criminal exploitation.
- Multi-agency formulation meetings provide a helpful insight into children's risks, vulnerabilities and needs through a trauma-informed lens.
- The partnership information portal (PIP) enables practitioners across all agencies to contribute vital information in an accessible way. This improves the partnership understanding of risk to children and their vulnerabilities.
- The research unit within the West Yorkshire Violence Reduction Partnership (VRP) provides regular and detailed analysis of data, research, community feedback and children's views and experiences. This builds a rich picture and understanding of where, when and why children are at risk of serious youth violence.
- The partnership's 'Project Shield' includes daily multi-agency information-sharing to provide an immediate response when children have been affected by serious youth violence.
- Children at risk of significant harm from serious youth violence or exploitation are responded to through the risk outside the home (ROTH) pathway. The ROTH pathway enables partners to work under statutory child protection planning to effectively address risks and enable children and families to work in partnership with agencies using a non-blaming relational approach.
- Police analysts use information from their own systems and other organisations to profile crime and thematic topics across the whole force, local authority and locality areas. These profiles contain detailed information about risks to children, including places and times. They are used practically to drive interventions and disruption activity and to engage multi-agency practitioners in educational and prevention activities, such as engagement with cohorts of school child

3. There were three main areas of improvement identified:

- Consistent and timely sharing of police protection notifications (PPNs) when police officers identify risks to children. The quality of PPNs should include detailed information, including a child's ethnicity and culture, to assist with multiagency decision-making
- Waiting times for children to receive CAMHS assessments and therapeutic treatment in line with needs arising from their mental health conditions and neurodiversity
- The frequency of multi-agency partnership auditing of children affected by serious youth violence, to inform a partnership learning and development strategy that builds on and enhances the existing training available to professionals working with children affected by serious youth violence.

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4. As part of the inspection framework for JTAI, the partnership must submit a partnership action plan responding to the areas of improvement identified during the inspection. The expectation is that Leeds City Council as the principal authority prepare and submit to Ofsted by 23rd August 2024 a written statement of proposed action responding to the findings outlined by inspectors in the published inspection report.
5. The action plan sets out partnership and individual agency actions and will be collectively overseen by the Leeds Childrens Safeguarding Partnership. The action plan will cover the 3 main areas of improvement as well as other findings by inspectors.

What impact will this proposal have?

6. Leeds City Council should send the written statement of action to OFSTED by 23 August 2024. This statement will inform the lines of enquiry at any future joint or single-agency activity by the inspectorates.

How does this proposal impact the three pillars of the Best City Ambition?

Health and Wellbeing

Inclusive Growth

Zero Carbon

7. Leeds City Council has made commitments relating to the health and wellbeing of children within the city, outlined as part of the Best City Ambition and Children and Young Peoples Plan. The arrangements described in this report support the delivery of services to meet ongoing need in relation to corporate responsibilities.

What consultation and engagement has taken place?

Wards affected:

Have ward members been consulted?

Yes

No

8. This report is to present the action plan in response to the inspection findings, this is a partnership plan. The plan sets out the response from individual organisations and these responses have been signed off by senior managers in the respective organisations and the LSCP Executive.

What are the resource implications?

9. There are no new proposals with resource implications for Leeds City Council presented in this report. It is recognised that the challenges of CAMHS waiting times is a significant national and local challenge with resource implication for the ICB. There is work already being undertaken in this area as detailed in the action plan. Where appropriate, some organisations who have contributed to the plan have re distributed existing resource in response to the findings.

What are the key risks and how are they being managed?

10. Due to the multi-agency nature of the required actions, there is a risk of the plan not being implemented. The Leeds Childrens Safeguarding Partnership will keep oversight of the plan's implementation.

Options, timescales and measuring success

What other options were considered?

11. The action plan sets out the individual agency and partnership response to the findings of the inspection report.

How will success be measured?

12. The action plan will have oversight of the Leeds Childrens Safeguarding Partnership.

What is the timetable and who will be responsible for implementation?

13. As detailed in the action plan.

Appendices

- Leeds JTAI Action Plan August 2024

Background papers

- ([50246977 \(ofsted.gov.uk\)](https://www.ofsted.gov.uk/inspections/50246977))