

JOINT AREA REVIEW 2008 IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Introduction

The Joint Area Review (JAR) and the Council's Corporate Performance Assessment took place concurrently in April 2008. The JAR was enhanced to include a monitoring re-inspection of the Youth Service; and the Youth Offending Service inspection of February 2008.

During the review, Ofsted focused on children looked after by the council, safeguarding children, children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities, and services for 14-19 year-olds. The review looked at services provided by the Council and its partners such as schools, health, the community and voluntary sector and the police.

The review was in two stages; an analysis week, during which inspectors scrutinised evidence and case files. Then a second stage - two weeks of intensive fieldwork talking to children, young people and their families as well as staff from the Council and partner agencies providing services. During this fieldwork the team of 8 inspectors conducted 128 interviews involving 364 children, young people, families, staff and elected Members.

The JAR Grades

The inspectors had to judge the services they looked at against a 4 point scoring scale as follows:

4 = Excellent - a service that delivers well above minimum requirements for users.

3 = Good - a service that consistently delivers above minimum requirements for users.

2 = Adequate - a service that delivers only minimum requirements for users.

1 = Inadequate - a service that does not deliver minimum requirements for users.

	Local services overall
Safeguarding	3
Looked after children	3
Learning difficulties and/or disabilities	2
Service management	3
Capacity to improve	3

Purpose of the Plan

The final JAR report was published on 17th November 2008. The Local Authority is now required to submit its response to the recommendations arising from the inspection in the form of an Improvement Plan within 70 days of the publication of the report.

The purpose of the Improvement Plan is to ensure that there is a clear programme of action, which addresses the recommendations and findings arising from the JAR report. The Improvement Plan addresses each of the recommendations made.

Performance Management of the JAR Improvement Plan

The JAR Improvement Plan although a document in its own right, will also form part of the annual Review of the Children and Young People's Plan, and be included within the robust performance monitoring processes undertaken for service plan performance monitoring carried out on a quarterly basis.

Recommendations	Proposed Action	Responsible AD/ Officer/Organisation	Deadline
For immediate action:			
1. Ensure that an appropriate way is found for the successful dissemination of the findings of this report to children and young people in Darlington	Produce Children and Young People's friendly summary of JAR report in leaflet and poster formats. To be distributed to schools and via Youth Service and on website Place on agenda of T3 Group and Council of School Councils Arrange for interview with DCS for Review Group to publish on web Meet with UK Youth Parliament MP and Deputies to disseminate information through UK Youth Parliament network	Julian Kenshole/ Janet Walke Murray Rose Murray Rose	Dec 08 Feb 09 Dec 08 Jan 09
2. Work in partnership with the local health commissioners to tackle gaps in health service provision for children and young people with disabilities	Additional funding 2008-09 secured through PCT Annual Operational Plan for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speech & Language Therapy • School Nursing • Disability • Learning disabilities • CAMHS 	Jenni Cooke Lucy Wheatley Lorrae Rose	Dec 8
For action within six months:			
3. Improve the links with adult services to ensure that all young people with complex needs moving into adult life have good outcomes which meet their needs	Establish Transition Case Panel and produce clear policy document and protocols. Establish joint training to ensure all staff are appropriately trained in Person Centred Planning. Appoint Transition Officer in Adult Services	Jenni Cooke Jenni Cooke Jane Robinson	June 08 June 08 Feb 09

Recommendations	Proposed Action	Responsible AD/ Officer/Organisation	Deadline
4. Ensure that there is sufficient good quality education and training for young people who offend	Improvement plan developed following self-assessment against the strategy by organisations and teams. Will include a review of provision for young offenders.	Lynn Kilpatrick	Feb 08
	ESF Programme Skills4me monitored to ensure take up of places by offenders and where required a re-alignment of provision to meet their needs.	Lynn Kilpatrick	Mar 2010
	KS4 engagement team develops offer of alternative provision including a revised Skills+ from 2009	Andy Dunn	Sept 09
	Embed specific offender programme into a progression pathway	Lynn Kilpatrick	Mar 09
	Multi agency review of learning pathways for Young Offenders being released from Detention Training Order into mainstream learning	Lynn Kilpatrick	April 09
5. Clarify strategies and implement the actions required to engage more young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities in education, employment or training post-16	Review options available focus on mainstream LDD	Andy Dunn	Jan 09
	Embed the ESF Skills4me provision and monitor take up by YPs with learning disabilities	Lynn Kilpatrick	May 09
	Ensure Placement support Worker works closely with CXS to identify support needs of those entering the ESF programme	Lynn Kilpatrick	May 09

Recommendations	Proposed Action	Responsible AD/ Officer/Organisation	Deadline
6. Reduce the number of young people who are not involved in education, employment or training at age 18	NEETS Self- assessment against components of the NEET strategy across all team and organisations will produce key actions	Lynn Kilpatrick	Feb 2008
	New Data sharing strategy implemented	Lynn Kilpatrick	May 09
For action in the longer term:			
7. Provide greater opportunities for young people who are looked after and those with learning difficulties and/or disabilities to influence the shape of services they use	Commission services to develop sustainable processes for involvement of children looked after and children with disabilities, in service planning	Jenni Cooke	Sept 08
	Implement the Children and Young People's Consultation and Engagement Strategy and action plan	Mervyn Bell	From Jan 2008
8. Implement the children with Disability Strategy and monitor its impact	Consult on Disability Strategy until 4 July 2008	Jenni Cooke	4 July 08
	Develop service design group to implement change	Jenni Cooke	Sept 08
	Ensure 'core offer' working streams	Jenni Cooke	Sept 08
	Appoint 'Aimhigher' development officer with focus on short breaks, increasing the range of providers	Jenni Cooke	Sept 08
	Performance Monitoring of impact of Disability Strategy	Jenni Cooke/ CWD Commissioning Group	Start Jan 09
9. Implement the 14-19 Strategy fully and monitor its impact	Further develop the 14-19 Trust partnership arrangements to enable partnership to fulfil the 14-19 'Next Steps' requirements	Andrew Dunn/ Helen Ellison	March 2010

Recommendations	Proposed Action	Responsible AD/ Officer/Organisation	Deadline
	Ensure consortium plans are in place for effective delivery of 2009 Diploma offer	Andrew Dunn/ Helen Ellison	Sept 09
	Implement QA and associated protocols across collaborative provision	Andrew Dunn/ Karen Williamson	Sept 10
	Develop further and raise awareness of borough-wide 14-19 Prospectus	Andrew Dunn/ Lynn Kilpatrick	Sept 10
	Agree Area wide Prospectus (AWP) protocols	Andrew Dunn/ Lynn Kilpatrick	Feb 09
	Embed promotion and use of prospectus with learners by incorporating into planning for their futures	Andrew Dunn/ Lynn Kilpatrick	May 09
	Establish AWP/CAP, Common Application Process, working group to maintain and develop tools.	Andrew Dunn/ Lynn Kilpatrick	Sept 09
	Apply through the Gateway to deliver additional Diploma lines	Andrew Dunn/ Helen Ellison	Nov 11
	Implement Machinery of Government changes and shadow LSC through the 'tracking' and 'transition' periods	Andrew Dunn	Mar 10
	Engage with employers more effectively to improve the range and quality of work experience offer.	Andrew Dunn/ Helen Ellison	Mar 10
9. Implement the 14-19 Strategy fully and monitor its impact	Develop a new '14-19 Plan' detailing how Darlington will deliver the 2013 Entitlement	Andrew Dunn/ Helen Ellison	Sept 09
	Develop a full 14-19 workforce Development Plan	Andrew Dunn/ Helen Ellison	Sept 09

