

Inspection Update



Issue 2 - February 2010

Safeguarding and Looked After Children Services Inspection is announced

The inspectors will be in Nottinghamshire from Monday 8th March to Friday 19th March, during which time they will conduct interviews, attend focus groups and visit the services provided for safeguarding and looked after children.

Inspectors will conduct meetings and hold discussions with users, managers, health professionals and agencies, police,

other staff and stakeholders.

The lead inspector will identify and analyse selected case records with and alongside key professionals who have oversight of the decision-making process. The main purpose being to assess how effectively children in need, including those looked after, are safeguarded and cared for.

Who are the inspectors?

The lead inspector will be Gary Lamb HMI from Ofsted. There will be at least three other Ofsted inspectors who will focus on specialist areas, and an inspector from the Care Quality Commission who will look at the PCTs and health provider organisations.

What will be inspected?

The inspection will look at how well agencies and professionals work together to identify, safeguard and promote the welfare of potentially vulnerable groups of children and young people that live in Nottinghamshire. These groups might include asylum-seeking children, children in secure settings, disabled children and children treated by health services.

The inspection will focus on evaluating outcomes for children and young people and the impact that practice and services have on improving outcomes, including through managing risk and minimising incidence of child abuse and neglect.

Improvement Programme Update

Our improvement programme has been established to improve our performance in response to the impact of a significant increase in referrals to Children's Social care. Eighteen different workstreams have been established covering a wide range of activity. For example, caseload management, partnership development, value for money and workforce development.

Action plans have been agreed and work started for all workstreams. A detailed monitoring schedule has been developed which will see progress monitored through the Children's Trust Executive, Safeguarding Children Forum and Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board.

The project initiation document which provides more detail about the improvement programme, and the copies of the update reports can be accessed via the Children's Trust WebPages at the following link:

www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/nottscyppartnership/cypppartnershipboard.htm

User and stakeholder views and surveys

The inspectors will take account of the extent to which service providers have sought and acted on the views of children, young people and carers in reviewing and improving services and outcomes generally. They will also speak to users and stakeholders to take their views into account.

For each inspection, surveys of children in the authority's care and recent care leavers will be carried out through the office of the Children's Rights Director at Ofsted, these will involve children aged eight years and over.

Inspectors will also take account of an annual Ofsted survey of the views of social workers and other safeguarding professionals and an annual survey of the voluntary sector.



Inspection timetable

Date	Activity
22 Feb	Notification of the inspection and accompanying documentation sent by email to Director of Children's Services, including arrangements for children's surveys, social worker and community and voluntary sector questionnaires. (Day 1)
23 Feb	Lead inspector telephones office of Director of Children's Services to agree date and time of set-up meeting. (Day 2) Council sends lead inspector copy of core set of documents as required by Ofsted.
24 Feb	Council sends Ofsted letter to looked after children and children who have left care in the past 12 months, which explains how their views are to be gathered and invites them to complete a children's survey. (Day 3)
25 Feb	Council provides the lead inspector with a list of current cases, including any analysis. (Day 4)
26Feb	Set-up meeting of chief officers with the lead inspector includes outline of particular areas for enquiry. Inspector informs council of which initial case files have been selected for audit and review. (Day 5)
1-5 Mar	Council prepares audit of initial case file selection. (Day 6-10)
8 Mar	Fieldwork starts and inspectors on site. (Day 11)
8-19 Mar	Inspection team undertake a range of evidence gathering activities, including interviews and focus groups and scrutiny of case files and performance management data. (Day 11-20)
19 Mar	Inspectors conclude fieldwork in the morning and will provide initial feedback to council and its partners in the afternoon, which includes feedback of results of children's surveys. (Day 20)
22-26 Mar	Drafting and quality assurance of report. (Day 21-25)
29 Mar	Draft report sent to local authority copied to Local Safeguarding Children Board for factual accuracy check. (Day 25)
30 Mar-5 Apr	Local authority completes the factual accuracy check and inform lead inspector of any concerns. (Day 26-30)
9 Apr	Final report sent to local authority. (Day 35)
16 Apr	Report published on the Ofsted website. (Day 40)

Will I be involved?

If you are to be interviewed, or expected to be part of a focus group, or if your place of work is to be visited, you will be informed by the inspection project team. Where possible you will be briefed about what is expected of you and how you will contribute to the inspection process.

If the inspectors want to speak with you, then be prepared to provide details of work you are doing to improve outcomes for children and young people and how they relate to safeguarding and looked after children. Try to provide tangible examples, where possible and be

honest about any challenges faced by your area of service and how they are being tackled.

If you are contacted unexpectedly and asked to see an inspector please ensure the inspection project team is informed immediately.

The project team

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