

PLYMOUTH JOINT TARGETED AREA INSPECTION (JTAI)

**Theme: Children's Mental
Health (10-15 years)**
Dates: 4-21 November 2019



Purpose of JTAI

- Multi-inspectorate review of partnership arrangements in respect of a key theme. Four Inspectorates represented led by Ofsted.
- First JTAI in Plymouth.
- Plymouth is one of six local authorities in England to experience a deep dive inspection in respect of this theme.
- A letter is sent summarising key messages; there is no overall judgement given.
- Approach used:
 - Off-site analysis of data, key documentation and multi-agency audits in the 2 weeks before they arrive on site.
 - One week on site activities including:
 - Meeting key stakeholders, leaders and practitioners. They review our 'front door' arrangements, YOT as well as deep dive 7 children's cases linked to the core theme.

OVERALL FINDINGS FOR THE PARTNERSHIP

STRENGTHS

- Highly motivated multi-agency practitioners who have a good understanding of children living with mental health issues.
- Good range of services, including SHARP, Targeted Support and the Mental Health Schools Programme.
- Our work is strong BUT not evidenced in records.
- Multi-agency work has a good focus upon the voice of the child and their lived experience.
- Trauma informed approach becoming evident in practice, but too soon to assess impact.
- Interventions clearly articulated.

AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT

- Multi-agency information sharing is not consistent
- Escalation is often missed leading to drift or delay for the child
- Inconsistent understanding of historical trauma and how that impacts on the emotional wellbeing and behaviour of children
- Prioritisation of risk is inconsistent.
- Decision making not always effective or directly linked to children's needs
- Multi-agency plans were variable, sometimes underdeveloped and not shared.

FINDINGS FOR CHILDREN SOCIAL CARE FRONT DOOR

STRENGTHS

- Thresholds at first point of contact is proportionate to the information received.
- Strengths, risks and vulnerabilities well identified in initial assessment.
- Positive initial safety plans are put in place for children perceived to be at risk.

AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT

- Information not routinely shared.
- How effective is the consideration of cumulative neglect?
- Lack of family centred planning – siblings.
- CSE screening tool not routinely used to identify level of risk.
- There are some delays in children being seen.

FRONT DOOR FINDINGS FOR THE PARTNERSHIP

STRENGTHS

- Agencies work well together e.g.co-location of LAC health team with CAMHS and MASH.
- Out of Hours offer timely responses with appropriate decisions made.
- Multi-agency services are quick to respond.
- Referrals, assessments and children's records show good engagement with and include the voice of the child.
- Effective police triage.

AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT

- Strategy meetings for children already open to Children's Social Care (CSC) requires improvement and health is not always invited to them.
- Communication between CSC and CAMHS has improved, but still gaps in multi-agency planning to ensure risk management and effective care planning.
- Child protection minutes are not always received by health colleagues and this is not always followed up.
- Gaps in education and health reps. in MASH inhibits informed decision making.

FINDINGS OF DEEP DIVE OF CHILDREN'S CASES

STRENGTHS

- Audits were detailed, accurate.
- Evidence of some child focused interventions.
- Each child/young person has a trusted relationship.
- Action taken promptly as required.
- Professionals know children very well Identification of all issues both good and inadequate practice issues.

AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT

- Strategy meetings inconsistent
- Increasing risk – lack of step up.
- Drift in decision making/plans.
- Children's records lack detail.
- Information sharing to improve.
- Quality of written plans.
- CIN meetings must take place.
- Insufficient escalation by partners to progress plans.

FINDINGS FOR LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

STRENGTHS

- CYPFS aware of all areas identified in the inspection.
- Good understanding of the Front Door performance.
- Confidence in leadership to make improvements recommended by this inspection.
- Varied offer of training by the SW Academy.
- YP Participation is strong including co-production.

AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT

- Quality Assurance must support improved practice & outcomes.
- Challenge and escalation to resolve problems earlier.
- Too many children in unsuitable accommodation.
- Children's plans to improve.
- Supervision is taking place the quality remains too inconsistent.

WHAT ARE THE MULTI-AGENCY AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT AND PRIORITIES

- Improve our early identification and support for children with emerging needs, to prevent escalation, especially in our adolescent population, and develop both the understanding and recognition of the impact of early ACEs in adolescence.
- Consistent system wide workforce development.
- Improve educational attainment, in particular for secondary aged young people in Plymouth.
- Improve shared understanding of a priority response for parents/carers with mental health issues impacting upon their children.
- Development of contextual and transitional safeguarding approach and responses.
- Work to improve consistency of and timely information sharing.
- Improve the coordination of the team around the child for some of our children and young people with complex needs – child by child planning and impact.
- Multi-agency quality assurance, supervision, escalation, multi-agency planning and review for children with a child in need plan.

NEXT STEPS

Action plan is being finalised ready to send to Ofsted.
Partnership meeting regularly to review progress.