



E-Bulletin: Issue No 1

22 June 2007

Welcome to the first Warrington JAR e-bulletin. This is intended for wide distribution to all staff delivering services to children, young people and families in across the town. Please forward copies to any colleagues not shown on the distribution list that you think might find it useful, or print hard copies for those not on the email system.

Many of you attended the staff briefings in May and will have received a copy of the 'Taking the lid off the JAR' leaflet. This leaflet explains what the JAR is, how it will work and when it will happen. You can download a copy of this leaflet from www.warrington.gov.uk/everychildmatters then follow the link to local authority and joint inspections – JAR 2007 – JAR Factsheet

A quick reminder of the JAR inspection programme

29th June **FINAL DEADLINE** for submissions of evidence

We must provide the inspectors with written evidence of all aspects of our work. Electronic and hard copies are being prepared by the JAR team.

9th –13th July **Analysis Week**

The inspectors will be with us for most of this week, undertaking a detailed review of the documentary evidence we have submitted. They will have offices on the ground floor of the Town Hall, although three or four inspectors will be based in a room at St Werburgh's.

The review of 10 children's case files, selected by the inspectors, will be major focus of their work during this week.

3rd – 14th Sept **Fieldwork Weeks**

A team of 10 JAR inspectors, plus three more focussing on the Enhanced Youth Service Inspection, will be with us for the first two weeks of September. During this time, they will be out and about across the town, visiting services, meeting children and young people, and talking to practitioners and managers.

21st Dec **Final Report**

The outcome of the inspection will be known just before Christmas, when the report is published on the Ofsted website.



The JAR Inspection Team

The JAR team is now in place. Here are their names and specialist areas – we hope to have photographs and short profiles for each of them in time for our summer programme of briefings:

- Martin Ayres – Lead Inspector
- Stella Butler - Deputy Lead Inspector
- Alison Dewar – Link to Corporate Assessment
- Neil Penswick – Safeguarding
- Joan Dennis - LAC
- Keith Woods - to be confirmed
- Ann Jackson – to be confirmed
- James Wallace – to be confirmed
- Christine Evans – CAMHS and Substance Mis-use
- Harriet Gore – Lead for Enhanced Youth Service Inspection
- Two further Youth Inspectors still to be named

Tell-us' Survey of School

Many thanks to the eight high schools and 21 primary schools who have taken part in the 'Tell-us' survey. Over a thousand pupils have now completed the on-line questionnaire, which is now being analysed by Mori. We will receive the report in August – just before the fieldwork weeks.

Children and Young People's Plan Annual Review 2006-07

The single, most important document we provide to the inspectors is the annual review of the Children and Young People's Plan. Many of you will have been involved in the review process this year. Whether you have contributed text, identified revised priorities, copy-checked the content or worked on the overall presentation, your efforts are much appreciated.

We have had a tremendous response to our request for case studies to illustrate the impact of our work. Some of these are included in the Plan – many others are being used to help us plan the inspector's itinerary so that we can showcase our services.

The CYPP Review 2006-07 was submitted to Ofsted on 14 June, and can now be viewed on the website at www.warrington.gov.uk/everychildmatters

Please take time to read the plan, and to consider how the priorities for the coming year (listed at the back of the Plan) can be linked to your team plan and your work.

Work is underway to produce a summary of this Plan – we'll let you know as soon as its ready.



Our Vision: Our Ambitions

The review of the CYPP re-establishes the importance of our **vision**:

'Every child and young person in Warrington has the opportunity to reach their potential'

It also contains a clear statement of the **ambitions** we have:

- Increase the involvement of all children, young people and their families
- Improve access to co-ordinated local services
- Reduce gaps in outcomes for vulnerable groups of children and young people
- Improve the emotional well-being of children and young people
- Support young people to be ambitious and to succeed.

Posters are being produced which highlight this vision and our ambitions. They will be circulated to all staff teams in the next couple of weeks. Please make every effort to display these posters.

Voluntary and Community Sector Survey

The survey of the voluntary and community sector partners is just getting underway. The JAR inspectors have identified a small number of organisations to receive a questionnaire that seeks to examine their view of working in partnership with the main statutory agencies to provide joined-up services to children and families.

Responses go direct to our lead inspector who will then share his analysis with us.

Preparation for the Analysis Week

The inspectors have provided a standard list of documents that they will study during the analysis week. Many thanks to all of you who have provided information so far. If you have been asked for documents and have not yet provided them, please do so without further delay.

Office accommodation is being established at the Town Hall for both the JAR inspectors and those working on the Corporate Assessment of the Council. The review of 10 children's case files which forms a major element of the inspector's scrutiny in during this week, will be conducted at St Werburgh's.



Identified 'Key Lines of Enquiry' for Warrington's JAR

All JAR inspections across the country have shared priorities for investigation.

- Services for Looked After Children
- Services for children with a disability
- Safeguarding
- Service management
- Capacity to improve

Demonstrating our achievements and future priorities in these areas has been a key focus of our work in recent weeks, particularly as the Children and Young People's Plan Review was being prepared. Self-assessments and evidence portfolios are being prepared to help us understand our strengths and focus on developing improved services.

In addition, some local priorities are identified for individual authorities. In our case, the lead inspector confirmed at the recent set-up meeting that the addition 'key lines of enquiry' for Warrington will be:

- An investigation into the quality of services provided and the outcomes achieved by children and young people using **CAMHS**
(John Dunkerley, WBC and Hilary Fenton, 5 Borough's Partnership)
- An investigation into the quality and consistency of **14-16 curriculum and post-16 provision**
(Liz Davies, Learning and Skills Council)
- Investigate how effectively local services support **substance mis-users**, including their families or carers, and the outcomes they achieve
(Norma Guest, Connexions)

Preparation is now underway to ensure that we gather evidence to demonstrate the strength of the services we provide. The JAR planning board has assigned a senior officer to lead our preparations for inspection against each of these areas (shown in brackets above).

The next two weeks will be crucial in making sure that we provide the documents to demonstrate the strength and breadth of our services, to the inspectors. If you are asked to contribute in any way – please respond promptly.

Support for Staff

We will be arranging some 'shadow' focus groups and 'mock' interviews for key staff groups during July and August. If you think you are likely to be involved in a focus group or interview, and would like to make use of this service, please talk to your manager, in the first instance. We will be contacting managers in a couple of weeks to gather the names of people who will make use of this service.



Enhanced Youth Inspection

As part of the JAR process, the Youth Service will undergo an Enhanced Youth Inspection (EYI). The EYI Lead Inspector, Harriet Gore, is a member of the JAR Team, but will also have two 'Additional Inspectors' who will make up the EYI Team.

The EYI Lead Inspector will be examining the Youth Service evidence during the analysis week, and the EYI Team will observe Youth Work practice during the first week of the JAR.

The EYI Team will inspect 3 Key Aspects of the Youth Service: The Standards of Young People's Achievement; The Quality of Curriculum and Resources; and Strategic and Operational Leadership and Management.

Dates for the Diary – SUMMER BRIEFINGS

During July and August, we will be holding detailed briefings for staff working in services likely to be under close scrutiny by the inspectors. The programme and content will be developed to reflect the feedback from the analysis week, and the relevant invitations will be issued through team managers. The sessions will be repeated across four weeks to ensure all key staff can attend, irrespective of when they are taking annual leave.

We have booked afternoon sessions at the Professional Development Centre in Irwell Road for

25th July and 2nd, 8th, and 16th August .

Please take note of these dates, and keep at least one of them free in your diary if you think you are likely to be required to attend.

Contact us

If you have any questions relating to this bulletin or any aspect of the JAR inspection, please email JAR@warrington.gov.uk

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Look out for the next e-bulletin on Friday 6 July
