



E-Bulletin: Issue No 6

18 September 2007

This is intended for wide distribution to all staff delivering services for children, young people and families in Warrington. Please forward a copy to any colleagues not shown on the distribution list, and print hard copies for those not on the email system.

End of Fieldwork

Phew!.... They've gone! After an extremely busy week, the JAR inspectors left Warrington on Friday afternoon, full of praise for the welcome they had received from everyone.

Martin Ayres, the Lead Inspector, expressed thanks on behalf of the whole team. In his 'summing-up' of the fieldwork weeks, he made special mention of the friendly and enthusiastic staff encountered as they undertook their interviews and focus groups around the town.

It was clear that the team had enjoyed their time in Warrington and had seen much to admire. They appreciated the obvious energy and enthusiasm of practitioners working for children and families in Warrington, and that this was not something merely 'put on' because there were inspectors about.

Feedback from the Inspectors

The inspection team gave detailed verbal feedback on Friday lunchtime. Each inspector provided comments on the key lines of enquiry on which they had led. . They have not finished their deliberations so the comments at this stage have to remain confidential

Norma Cadwallader's letter (copy appended on following page) sent to staff on Friday gave a sense of the positive tone they adopted.

Diana Terris
Chief Executive

To: All Children's Services Staff

Norma Cadwallader
Strategic Director
Children's Services

14 September 2007

New Town House
Buttermarket Street
Warrington
WA1 2NJ

Our Ref: NC/mh

Dear Colleague

JAR 2007

We have now had the headline feedback from the JAR inspection team and it is positive. They have recognised our strengths and agreed with us on the areas for development. They are highly impressed by the way we use the Family Support Model and the way it is embedded across all agencies. They have endorsed our move to area delivery of services and are impressed by our ambition for our children and young people.

They have particularly asked me to thank all those people they have visited, spoken to or who have provided information, as well as those who have been working behind the scenes. They share my high regard for the quality of staff across the agencies and have recognised your considerable strengths. The energy, enthusiasm, commitment and excitement you show in your working was very evident to them. The detail of the feedback is still confidential until the report is finalised and I am not therefore at liberty to say what grades will be attached to each key line of enquiry. I would however remind you that from the outset I was confident that we deliver good children's services in Warrington and that confidence is not misplaced.

Well done everyone! Thank you for all your additional efforts over the last two weeks. Enjoy your weekend - I certainly will.

Regards

Norma

Norma Cadwallader
Strategic Director



So just how busy have we been?

Many, many people have contributed to the preparations for the JAR fieldwork. Just look at the statistics below....

136	Interviews and focus group sessions
535	people invited to meet the inspectors
41	different venues
342	documents provided before the fieldwork
37	additional documents in Week 1
18	further documents in Week 2
70+MB	electronic information
10	JAR Inspectors
4	Enhanced Youth Inspectors
1	Joint Inspector (linked to the Corporate Assessment)
2	'trainee' inspectors joined us for a couple of days.

Making a success of such a complex process is testament to the hard work and commitment of many people. The staff working in the JAR team in New Town House worked tirelessly to keep up with the demand. However, their work would have been impossible without the contribution of dozens of people across children's services who made sure that parts of the programme ran smoothly. Almost without exception, any requests for assistance have been met with prompt enthusiasm and support. Thank you.

What happens now?

W/c 17 Sept	The inspectors continue to work on their notebooks.
W/c 24 Sept	The inspectors' findings are moderated against the work of teams undertaking JARs in other areas to ensure some consistency in the final judgements.
22 October	The Director of Children's Services will receive a draft copy of the report.
5 November	The Director will meet with the Lead Inspector to discuss the initial findings and make comments on the outcome judgements proposed. This is the last chance to correct any factual inaccuracies within the report.
3 December	Final report received by Director of Children's Services (not for publication)
22 December	Final report published on Ofsted website



Warrington "Tellus 2" Survey

A summary report of the survey of 1,238 pupils in Warrington was finally received on 11 September. It was a little too late to form a major part of the evidence assessed as part of the JAR, but the inspectors noted its generally positive tone.

The survey was carried out in Spring 2007 and asked children and young people to give their view on their local area. The response rate in Warrington was higher than the national average, (29 of the 52 schools selected) which should provide some useful data to interrogate when the full report comes through.

The responses were in line with national averages in many cases, but there were four questions that gained responses where a significant positive difference from the national picture could be detected, namely

- ✓ more young people feel safe on public transport
- ✓ fewer young people feel that public transport is poor
- ✓ more young people feel that the area is a good place to live in
- ✓ more young people feel that the information to plan their future is good

More detailed information is expected over the next few weeks an analysis of which will be shared with colleagues across agencies.

Contacting the JAR Team

Now that the fieldwork part of the inspection is completed, the JAR Team is being disbanded. The JAR inbox will cease functioning by the end of this week, so if you have a query related to the JAR, please email cxjones@warrington.gov.uk or ring Jen Green on (01925) 443170.