



Briefing in preparation for interviews &  
focus groups during the fieldwork  
programme

June 12<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2006

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# Introduction

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- The Joint Area Review (JAR) is part of the new inspection framework for Children's services. The JAR will examine how services are contributing to the well-being of children and young people.
- Well-being is defined in terms of the five outcomes described in *Every Child Matters*:
  - Being Healthy
  - Staying Safe
  - Enjoying and Achieving
  - Making a Positive Contribution
  - Achieving Economic Well-Being

The JAR is an integrated inspection of all services for children and young people in Devon where they receive public fund or resources



The JAR is happening at the same time as Devon County Councils Corporate Performance Assessment (CPA) Inspection

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# The JAR will

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- look at how well children are achieving the five outcomes in Devon
- Particular attention to vulnerable (LAC) & learning difficulties or disabilities
- ask us how Children's Services, Health, the Youth Offending Team, Police, Voluntary Agencies, Connexions and others work together to contribute to the five outcomes;
- ask us to identify our priorities for children;
- see if our policies and plans are really implemented;
- look at how well we are ***changing lives of children and young people.***

# The JAR will judge

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- The collective contribution of all services to each outcome
- The overall contribution of Devon County Council services and separately its education and social care services
- The local Health Service contribution
- The collective contribution to service management.

# Fieldwork Focus

## 7 Key Judgements

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- *Being Healthy 1.4.* - Action is taken to promote children & young people's mental health
- *Being Healthy 1.6.*- Health needs of children and young people with learning difficulties or disabilities are addressed
- *Staying Safe 2.3* -The incidence of child abuse and neglect is minimised
- *Staying Safe 2.4.* - Agencies collaborate to safeguard children according to government guidance

# Fieldwork Focus

## 7 Key Judgements

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- *Enjoying & Achieving 3.7.* - Children and young people who are looked after are helped to enjoy & achieve
- *Making a Positive Contribution 4.3* - Children and young people are encouraged to participate in decision making & in supporting the community
- *Economic WellBeing 5.3* - Action is taken to ensure that 14 -19 education and training is planned & delivered in a co-ordinated way and that education & training (16 -19) is of good quality

# Overarching Themes

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- Focus on outcomes
- Clarity of purpose
- Analysis of need
- Prevention
- Outcomes for vulnerable groups
- Resources
- Evaluating impact & measuring performance

# Devon's Self Assessment

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‘The pillar of the Joint Area Review’

‘We expect that all services for children and young people in the local area, including the voluntary and community sector will be fully involved in producing the self-assessment, both for the JAR and the APA’.

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# Self Assessment

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The focus is to evaluate the impact of actions taken to improve outcomes and implement priorities for children & young people in Devon

- An analysis of your strengths and areas for improvement
- Evidence of impact and improvement, and if not what steps are you taking.

# Devon's Approach

- Multi agency involvement & contribution
- Partners Conference 4<sup>th</sup> April (over 60 representatives / delegates)
- Internal groups/meetings/conferences
- Collecting, collating and organising evidence
- Focus on activity, impact & outcomes

# Judgements – the grades

Grade	Description
4	A service that delivers <b><i>well above minimum requirements</i></b> for children and young people is innovative and cost-effective and fully contributes to raising expectations and the achievement of wider outcomes for the community.
3	A service that <b><i>consistently delivers above minimum requirements</i></b> for children and young people, has some innovative practice and is increasingly cost-effective whilst making contributions to wider outcomes for the community.
2	A service that delivers <b><i>only minimum requirements</i></b> for children and young people, but is not demonstrably cost-effective nor contributes significantly to wider outcomes for the community
1	A service that does <b><i>not deliver minimum requirements</i></b> for children and young people, is not cost-effective and makes little or no contribution to wider outcomes for the community.

# What the interviews/ focus groups for?

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- Gain further evidence, seek clarification & understanding
- Test submitted evidence with operational reality and explore inconsistencies
- Evaluate achievements and our capability to deliver priorities
- Build a picture of the organisation's self awareness of its priorities, strengths and areas for improvement.

# Providing Feedback

- Immediately following your interview/ focus group meeting, you are expected to provide feedback to SLG using the JAR team email address (type in [Joint Area Review Team](mailto:jar.team@devon.gov.uk) in the 'to' box or [jar.team@devon.gov.uk](mailto:jar.team@devon.gov.uk)), on the following:
- What were the Inspectors key lines of enquiry?
- What aspects did they enquire about which you were uncomfortable with?

# We judged ourselves as:

The contribution of **publicly funded services collectively** in maintaining and improving this outcome for children and young people.

- **Grade for *being healthy* 3**
- **Grade for *staying safe* 3**
- **Grade for *enjoying and achieving* 3**
- **Grade for *making a positive contribution* 3**
- **Grade for *achieving economic well-being* 3**

## **Publicly funded Services Grade for *Capacity to improve* 3**

The contribution of ***the council's children's services*** in maintaining and improving outcomes for children and young – **Grade 3**

Children's social care services **Grade 3**

**The council's children's services Grade** The council's capacity to improve its services for children and young people- **Grade 3**

# Self Assessment: An Example

## IMPROVING OUTCOMES FOR DEVON'S LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN

### Identifying the Needs

- Use of PAF indicators
- Best Value Reviews
- Audit Commission x 2
- Internal Reviews

### Action to Improve

- Rapid Improvement Plans – NEETs
- Education Achievement Action Plan
- Celebration of Achievement
- Care Leavers BV Action Plan/implemented

### Measuring the Impact

- Out turn PAF P1 2003 – 2006
- Monthly management reports
- Quarterly monitoring to senior managers
- Quarterly monitoring to Portfolio Holder
- Data Quality

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## **Giving Devon's Children & Young People the best possible start in life**

- Ambition, aspiration and improving achievement
- Narrowing the gap for children and young people in lowest 20% (health and education outcomes)
- Early identification and prevention (swift & easy access, information, advice and support)
- Inclusion and Participation
- Diversity and Equalities

# Analysis Week – Feedback

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- Very early days
- Observations not judgements
- Where inspectors will want to look during fieldwork

Gather evidence

Probe

Test

Evaluate

Build a picture of our self-awareness of priorities, strengths and areas for improvement

**ALL TO PLAY FOR**

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# Preparing for Fieldwork

- Be well armed with evidence and data – don't make it up – take it along!
- Be positive and confident about what is being achieved, whilst acknowledging difficulties/obstacles
- Be aware of DCC, CYPS and CYPP priorities for improving outcomes and how your contribution fits
- It is OK to say I don't know
- It is OK to be unsettled by questions
- Take responsibility for preparation and feedback
- Take responsibility for supporting staff