

Devon Joint Area Review Staff Briefing

March 2006

- 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 funding or resources



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

The JAR will:

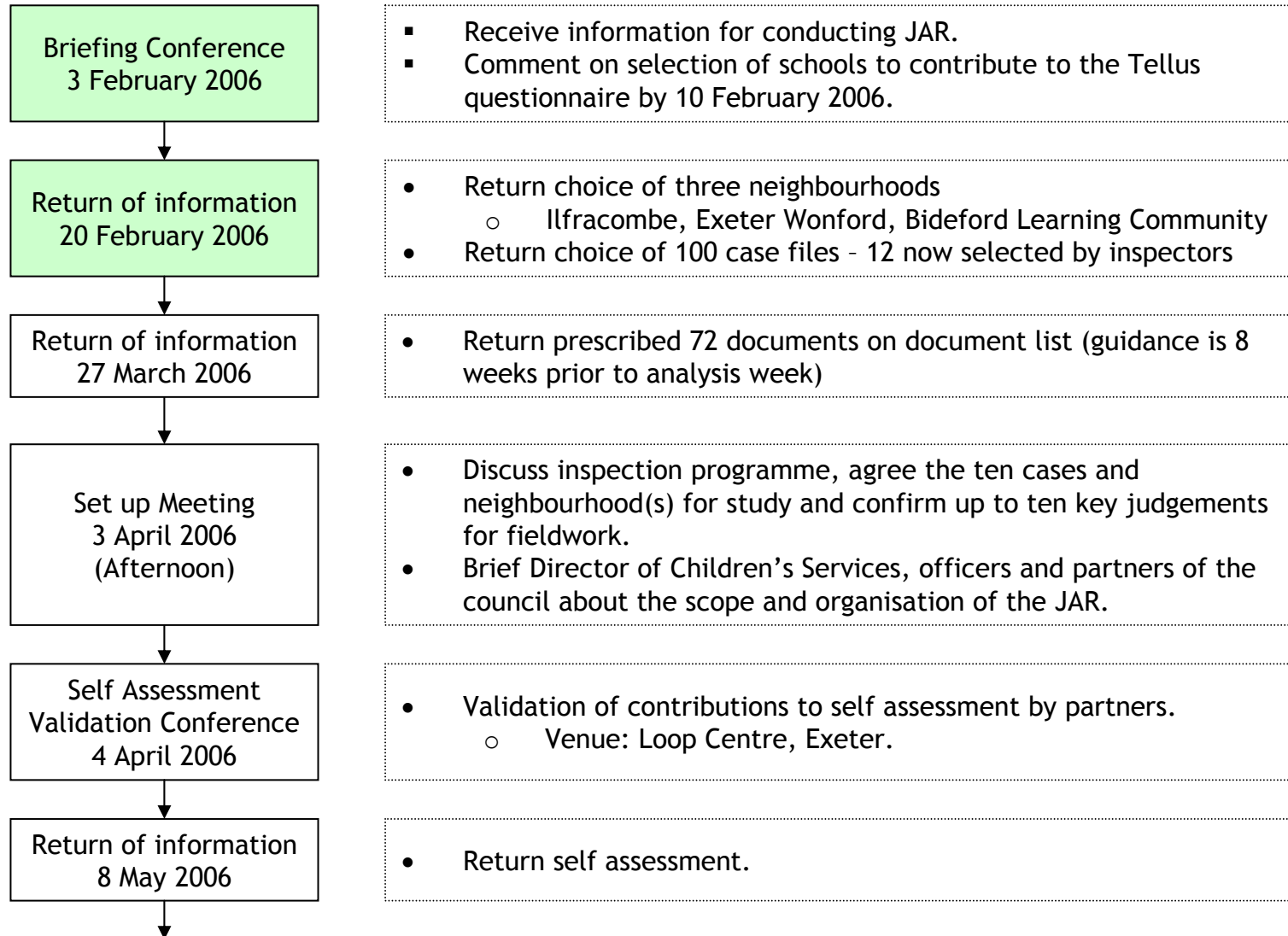
- look at how well children are achieving the five outcomes in Devon;
- look at the outcomes for children and young people from 0-19 years, and, in some cases, those older than 19 who require additional services;
- ask us how Children's Services, Health, the Youth Offending Team, Police, Voluntary Agencies, 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 make judgements on:

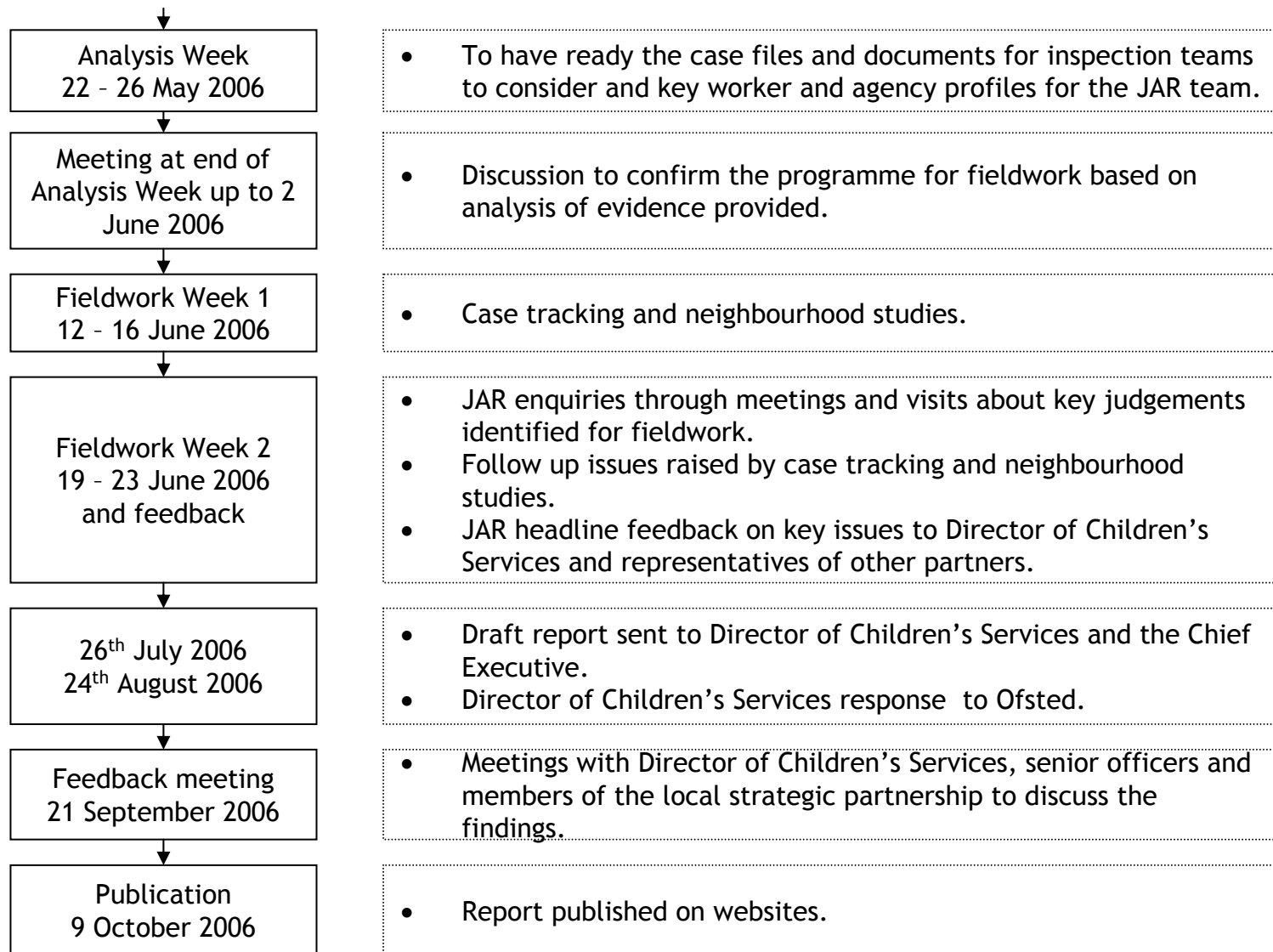
- the collective contribution of all services to each outcome;
- the overall contribution of Devon County Council services and separately its education and social care services;
- the local Health Service contribution;
- the collective contribution to service management.

The JAR will use evidence from:

- a self assessment
- the most recent inspection judgements on all agencies involved;
- the most recent performance information of all agencies involved
- a survey of 600 children and young people across 12 primary and 12 secondary schools via the 'Tellus' survey;
- a visit from a team of inspectors between 12 June and 23 June;
- a study of 10 case files;
- a study of 1 or 2 neighbourhoods;
- interviews with children, young people and parents;
- interviews with front line staff supporting children;
- interviews with managers of frontline staff;
- our strategies, plans and policies.



/.. Timetable



We are managing the JAR through:

- a core team reporting to the Director of Children's Services focusing on discrete work packages e.g.
 - Neighbourhood study;
 - Case Tracking;
 - Self assessment.
- partnership involvement through the Devon Children's Trust
- extended team and individual contributions

- Geoff Evans - JAR Lead Officer
- Cathy Ellingford - Health Children's Lead
- David Sullivan - JAR Analyst & Support
- Julie Mitchell - JAR Business Manager
- Tim Leishman - JAR Analyst & Support
- Andy Wood - Admin Support

We will want some people to:

- respond to specific requests for information;
- contribute to judgements through a self assessment process
- join short-lived working groups;
- be interviewed by inspectors;
- participate in focus groups;
- host site visits
- complete questionnaires

We will keep you informed:

- regularly;
- through a newsletters and bulletins;
- through your managers;
- through meetings that you would have had anyway;
- through one-to-ones and small team briefings;
- through additional briefings by e-mail, post and a website

www.devonjar.org.uk

- in increasingly more detailed ways as the JAR approaches;
- if you are one of those people who has to do something.

Email us: jar.team@devon.gov.uk

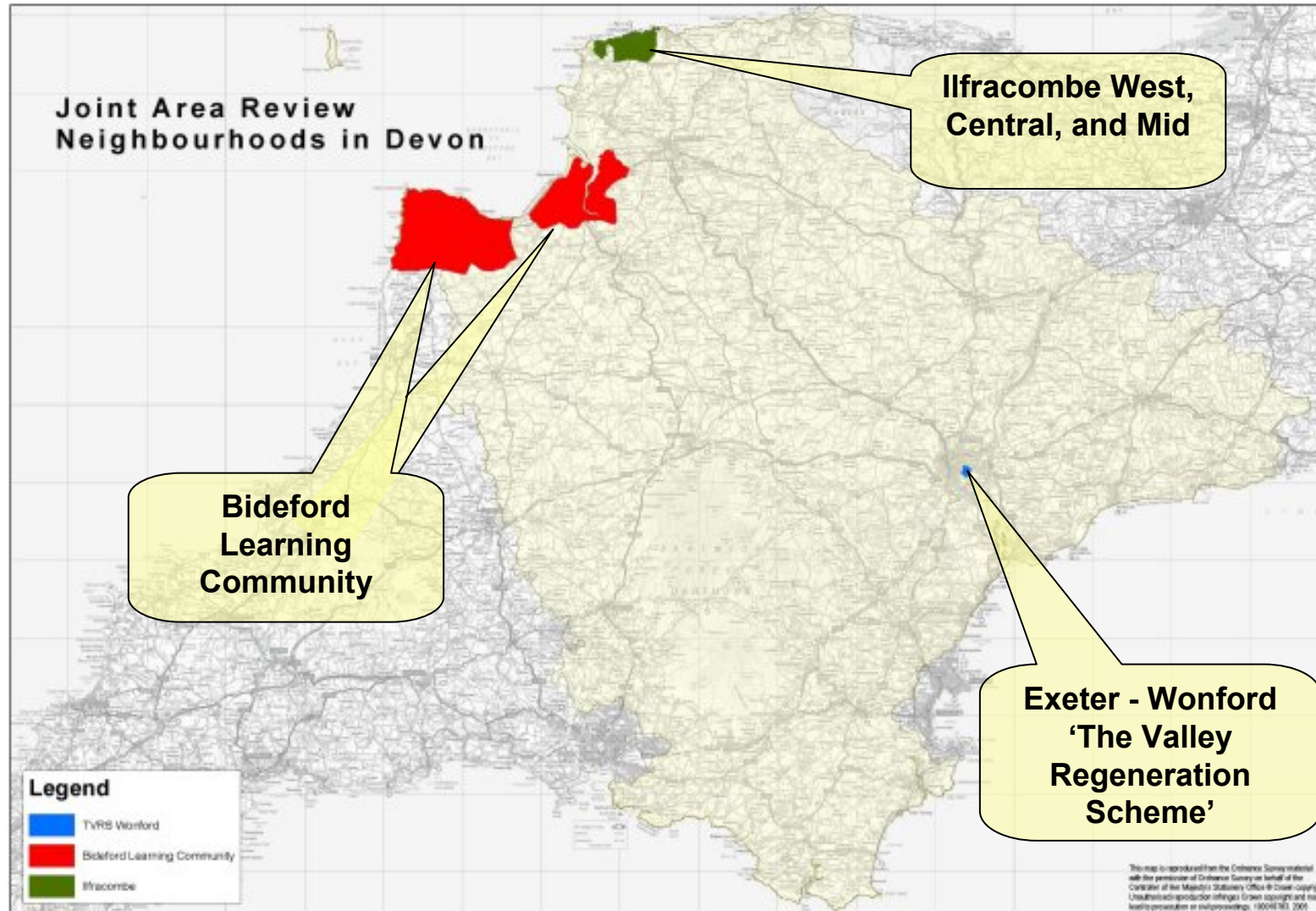
JAR Work Package Detail

- 100 case files submitted :criteria
 - 30% Looked After Children
 - 30% Child Protection
 - 30% Children In Need
 - 10% referred but threshold not met
- All 100 families will be surveyed
- 10 cases selected for in-depth analysis during field work weeks

- Revise local authority Annual Performance Assessment (APA) which has emphasis on 'Stay Safe' and 'Enjoy and Achieve'
- Invite all partners to comment on the above and the other 3 outcomes against a structured format.
- Validation conference with all partners 4th April
- Return self assessment to inspectors 8th May.

- 3 neighbourhoods identified - 1 or 2 will be selected by the inspectors
 - Exeter 'The Valley Regeneration Scheme'
 - Ilfracombe - East, Central and West
 - Bideford Learning Community
- Once notified of the chosen one or two, a multi agency sub-team will meet to discuss the next steps

Neighbourhood Study Proposals



Analysis Week - 22nd to 26th May

The Inspectors will:

- analyse the Self Assessment;
- review evidence, data & documentation;
- develop emerging hypotheses for the inspection;
- share thoughts and explore issues with Senior Managers;
- finalise Key Judgements to be explored during fieldwork.

Fieldwork Weeks - 12th to 23rd June

- Case Tracking
- Interviews
- Focus Groups
- Visits
- Neighbourhood Study

- Tour of neighbourhood guided by young people
- Meeting and listening to the views of children & young people, parents, carers & front line staff
- Talking about 'what life is like'
- Visiting: a health focussed service, co-located services, before & after school provision, voluntary sector provision
- Meeting local councillors
- Multi Agency involvement