



Update

Joint Area Review: Staff Newsletter No.5

We had a brief lull at the end of Analysis Week (as we'd anticipated, the Inspection Team did ask for a lot of supplementary data) and some encouraging feed-back on many aspects of our work.

At the briefing session for those who will be in focus or interview groups Anne gave some pointers to lines of enquiry. Her Powerpoint is available on <http://www.devonjar.org.uk/docs/briefing-preparation-for-interviews.pdf>

I apologise for the continual changes in Focus Groups in particular. These have been extensive and at Inspectors' requests. It has been very difficult to find dates and times to suit each individual and the people he or she wants to meet. I'm afraid there could be further changes yet. It has been a logistic challenge to say the least. In case you are not aware, the Director has asked that any member of staff involved in Focus Groups/Interviews should be given time to prepare properly. I hope you will, of course, read the CYPP, but there is also a summary, which may help you to home in on the bits most relevant to you; and also ensure you know the priorities in our Business Plan for 2006/07

- implementing the Workforce Strategy (*wfs*)
- joint commissioning
- integrated services
- resolution of outstanding governance issues

The Business Plan and *wfs* are very brief documents so everyone should read them! You can find them on <http://www4.devon.gov.uk/private/eal/staff/> (right hand side under New Strategy documents)

Apart from forthcoming interviews (starting on Tuesday 13 June with senior officers) and focus groups the big events are the visits to two neighbourhoods. These visits are part of every JAR and give the Inspectors a chance to see life on the ground, talking to front-line staff, young people and families.

In Bideford they will visit the Bideford SureStart Centre, the College; East-of-the-Water Appledore Primary; Clovelly Primary; meet with the YOT Panel and Wings Charity Outbreak group and Pathfield school.

In Wonford (Exeter) they will visit Chestnut Avenue Centre; Isca College of Media Arts; the 100 Club; visit to Exeter College for 'Get on Wonford'; Wynstream Primary and Rifford Road Children's Home.

Both these areas have some exciting developments and also demonstrate that we have targeted some of our most innovative work to areas that need it most, in keeping with DCC's Strategic Plan priority to put resources where there is potential disadvantage.

If you are involved in the Neighbourhood Studies I hope you enjoy talking to the Inspectors about your own contribution.

I'm anticipating that there will be a couple more JAR newsletters. But any time now you should also receive your first CYPS newsletter (the previous CYPS briefings were only to report on decisions at Strategic Leadership Group). And then it will very much be over to you - you will have the opportunity to 'talk' instead of me! We haven't had the capacity to produce a proper newsletter until now, and the first one is not in any special format - it's a starter with your chance to help to shape it.

So watch out for that, and watch out for those Inspectors!

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