

CHILDREN'S SAFEGUARDING BRIEFING No.3

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JOINT TARGETED AREA INSPECTION (JTAI): CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE IN THE FAMILY ENVIRONMENT

In August 2018 guidance about the next round of Joint Targeted Area Inspections (JTAI) was published. This cycle of JTAI will be concerned with the themes of:

- child sexual abuse in the family environment,
- children associated with gangs and at risk of exploitation (including county lines)
- children missing from home, care or education.

Definitions being used are:

Child sexual abuse in the family environment:

“Child Sexual Abuse in the Family Environment is defined as sexual abuse perpetrated or facilitated in or out of the home, against a child under the age of 18, by a family member, or someone otherwise linked to the family context or environment, whether or not they are a family member...perpetrators may be close to the victim (e.g. father, uncle, and stepfather) or less familiar (e.g. family friend, babysitter).’ Perpetrators can also be female, such as mother, auntie and stepmother

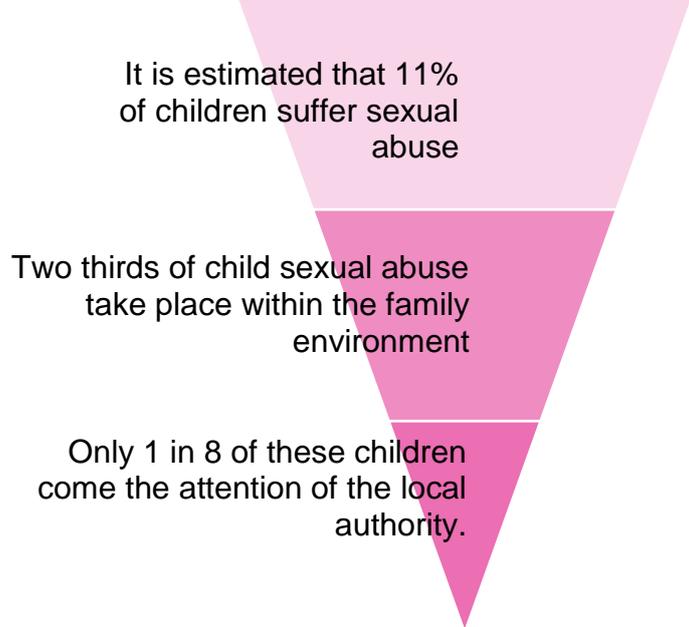
Child sexual abuse:

“Involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example, rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing, and touching outside of clothing. They may also include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse (including via the internet). Adult males are not the only perpetrators of Sexual abuse. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children.’

Background

In 2014, the Children's Commissioner undertook an inquiry into child sexual abuse in the family environment. Research found:

- Children are often unable to recognise that they have been victims of sexual abuse until they are older.
- It is often uncovered because of secondary presenting factors, such as self-harm.
- If a professional has not received the additional support and training, then the presenting factor may become the focus rather than the discovery of abuse.



It is estimated that 11% of children suffer sexual abuse

Two thirds of child sexual abuse take place within the family environment

Only 1 in 8 of these children come the attention of the local authority.

Scope:

Target Area Scope

- the response to all forms of child abuse, neglect, and exploitation from identification
- the quality and impact of assessment, planning and decision-making in response to notifications and referrals
- protecting children and young people at risk of a specific type (or types) of harm, or the support and care of children looked after and/or care leavers (evaluated through a deep dive investigation into the experiences of these children)
- the leadership and management of this work
- the effectiveness of the multi-agency safeguarding partner arrangements

Evaluation:

During the investigation, inspectors will evaluate the extent of:

- How agencies identify and respond to the risk and concerns raised
- The timeliness of interviews and assessments
- What support is available
- Are children and families having their views heard?
- Are cases being fully investigated through to criminal convictions, or in cases which do not result in prosecutions, but concerns remain, the multi-agency is effective in reducing risk.

Schools: schools need to have effective systems in place to identify children in these key areas of risk, including:

- Effective systems to identify children at risk or subject to sexual abuse in the family environment
- Appropriate and timely referrals including support
- Schools contribution to the multi-agency response

Service Leaders and Managers

- Understand the experiences of children who are at risk or, or subject to, sexual abuse in the family environment.
- Understand the prevalence of sexual abuse in the family environment within their local and service area.
- Challenge and support practitioners, promoting continuous improvement in dealing with sexual abuse in the family environment.

Working together is paramount. Partnership working will be evaluated by Inspectors:

- How actively work is monitored, promoted, coordinated, and evaluated for children who have been sexual abuse in the family environment
- What works is undertaken with adult offenders to reduce the risk of harm to children
- How MAPPA effectively assesses and manages risks from adults
- How Support staff have clear roles and responsibilities, with training and support to meet their needs which positively impacts the quality of service delivery.

Process:

The local authority and partners will provide information within submission deadlines.

Due to the complexity of this theme, case lists could be generated based on performance information or Professional knowledge. Local Authorities would have flexibility on how this information is provided.

The Local Authority has **2 options** available for presenting the case lists to inspectors. It is anticipated that larger LA's, such as Barking and Dagenham, will use Option A.

By end of Day 2 (Wednesday) of an inspection, the Director of Children's Services (DCS) should provide a list of those children identified as child in need (CIN), children who are the subject of a child protection plan, both living in the local authority area or living outside the area where the local authority is responsible. The lead inspector will use this list to select the children to be tracked.

The case list should include:

Up to **5 cases** where **YOTs**, as well as **Children's Services**, are involved.

Up to **5 cases** where **NPS**, as well as **Children's Services**, are involved.

Dependent on which of the two available options (A or B) is chosen, will determine next steps:

Option A:

This is in line with previous JTAs. This is likely to be the best option for larger local areas. In option A, The lead inspector will select 20 cases for additional information from the list provided by the Local Authority. The information in the 20 cases will then be used to narrow down to the five to seven cases that the joint inspection team will track.

Option B:

More information is required to be completed initially, but the lead inspector will use this to immediately identify the five to seven cases to be tracked by the joint inspection team. This removes a step from the process but may be seen as needing more time initially. This shortens the process and enables the lead inspector to select cases for tracking from the spreadsheet.

Option A:

By 9:30am on day three (Thursday), the lead inspector will select 20 children from all the lists.

By 4pm of day three (Thursday) the local authority should provide the lead inspector with the following information for each of the 20 children:

- Is this a current or significant factor?
- Is there multi-agency involvement?
- Is the child, young person or Adult known to the YOT or NPS?
- Is there a current police investigation or criminal proceedings?
- Is the child currently receiving intervention and support or has done in the last 6 months?
- Has the child attended a Sexual Assault Referral centre or a child paediatric assessment centre because of suspected or actual child sexual abuse in the family environment?

By 10am on day four (Friday), the lead inspector will select between five and seven cases to track.

By 12pm on day four (Friday), communication with the Local Authority confirming the selection of cases for review.

Option B:

By 3pm of day two (Wednesday) the local authority should provide additional information to the Lead Inspector

By end Day three (Thursday) Inspectors should be notified of any multi agency meetings taking place.

By 10am on day four (Friday), the lead inspector will select between five and seven cases for inspectors to track.

By 12pm on day four (Friday), cases will be confirmed as fulfilling the criteria by the Local Authority.

Inspectors will:

- Evaluate the experiences of the children identified, alongside the family context.
- Focus on practice over the 6 months prior to inspection but consider experiences throughout the child's involvement.

Agencies should provide key documents associated with these children by the end of Day 6, and the joint evaluations by the end of Day 8.

Key documents to be provided by agencies in order to support the inspection:



Further Information

For the full range of scope and evaluation criteria click [here](#).

Contact Chris Bush, Commissioning Director for Children's Care and Support (LBBB) at christopher.bush@lbbd.gov.uk or on 0208 227 3188