



Joint Targeted Area Inspection

Progress Update January 2025

Author: Jasmine Wark, SSCP Business Manager

1. **Summary**

[Link to JTAI Letter](#)

- 1.1 This paper aims to update Scrutiny on the progress of the Joint Targeted Area Inspection action plan. The findings of the Inspection were [presented to Scrutiny in August 2024](#) and the key headlines of the [action plan were presented in September 2024](#). The action plan was scrutinised and signed off by the Inspectorates (Ofsted, CQC, HMICFRS and HMIP) in October 2024. The Children's Scrutiny Committee are requested to note the progress against the action plan.

2. **Key areas of progress:**

- 2.1 Staff training (in Serious Youth Violence, Child Exploitation, Transform and general child safeguarding) is well underway as per the action plan. The multi-agency training offer has been launched and agencies have set targets for staff completion, which will be monitored by the Partnership Learning and Improvement subgroup. [New Serious Youth Violence awareness page launched! - Somerset Safeguarding Children Partnership](#)
- 2.2 Electronic daily paediatric reports are expected to be in place for Emergency Departments by the end of January 2025 to improve oversight of safeguarding practice in hospitals.
- 2.3 The Police have delivered a new Voice of the Child programme 500 CID Police officers, with plans to roll out to three other operational directorates. This aims to improve professional curiosity about children's lives and to support the development of a child centred approach to intelligence and safeguarding referrals.
- 2.4 An SSCP Serious Youth Violence Conference was held on 25/11/24, with 240 attendees from across agencies. Feedback from attendees included that it would support their practice in relation to better information sharing, better professional challenge and curiosity about the factors that may contribute to risk of serious youth violence.
- 2.5 Work also continues on the Education for Life Strategy locally, as key data around attendance and exclusion was identified as an area of weakness within the inspection. In the 12 months from September 2023 to September 2024, exclusions

have reduced by 13%. They do however remain some of the highest rates in the country, with children with SEND over-represented in this cohort. There is still much to do.

- 2.6 Police are developing a violence reduction app to promote better information sharing between agencies.

3. Focus areas

- 3.1 Progress in the areas below has been slower than anticipated, with a confidential report commissioned by the Safeguarding Children Partnership Executive, through the DfE Safeguarding Lead, to increase pace and commitment to these issues. All areas are now progressing more coherently.
 - a. Ensuring that the governance and multi-agency meetings in place for child exploitation and serious youth violence are effective and enable the right information to be shared. A reporting schedule between the Safer Somerset Partnership, Youth Justice Partnership Board and Safeguarding Children Partnership has been agreed to enable strategic information to be examined and feed into decision making. Underneath the strategic boards, work is underway to design a MAVE (Exploitation) meeting in consultation with the National Working Group. A Police Priorities meeting has also been established to provide operational information sharing and oversight of place and person-based concerns and ensure that relevant agencies are involved in reducing risk. A draft of how these meetings are intended to work and the connections between them is being tested with a group of children recently identified as at potential risk of serious youth violence in one area of the county.
 - b. Regional discussions around Child Exploitation screening tools to enable clear messaging and analysis of risk across agencies including Police.
 - c. Clear messaging to frontline practitioners to ensure any changes are communicated and that the workforce have a clear understanding of how to action concerns around child exploitation and serious youth violence.
 - d. Restructure and key personnel changes (particularly within the Police) are an ongoing challenge to timely progress of aspects of the plan, however assurance has been provided that development work will continue at pace.

4. Quality assurance and oversight of the plan

- 4.1 Somerset Safeguarding Children Partnership request quarterly updates from agencies who are part of the JTAI Action Plan. Once actions are completed, agencies are also required to provide quality assurance that the action has had the desired impact in terms of developing the local safeguarding system and delivering better outcomes for children and families in Somerset. This is examined by the Partnership Quality and Performance subgroup.

4.2 Alongside single agency quality assurance work, the Somerset Safeguarding Children Partnership also have a programme of multi-agency audit, practitioner surveys, Independent Scrutiny and site visits to gather evidence of systems change and challenge areas where required progress is not being made.