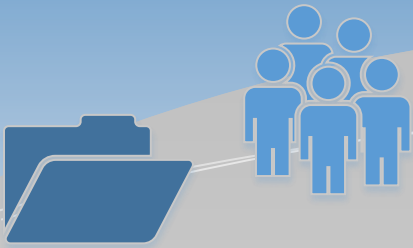


Multi Agency Quality Assurance Audit: Mental Health March 2021



The three children chosen for this audit were aged between 13 and 15 at the time of the audit. Two are boys and one is a girl. The smaller number of children chosen reflects the short timeframe in a dry run of JTAI timescales.

The audit of 9th March 2021 reviewed the records of three children who were open to Child & Adolescent Mental Health services.

The aim of the audit was to ascertain whether there were good multi-agency standards for managing cases and whether organisations have implemented a robust and consistent response in line with statutory and good practice guidance, and the Children's Partnership policies and procedures. This audit was completed with fewer children and under JTAI timescales as a dry run of the process.

The children have a range of needs including Mental health concerns, ADHD, Self Esteem issues, impact of Domestic Abuse in the family, missing episodes, exploitation risk, bullying

What we are worried about?

There was concern about information being effectively shared between organisations that work predominantly with children and those who work with adults. Probation services were not always aware who else is involved with the family and vice versa.

What can I do differently?

- Always 'Think Family'.
- Ask curious questions to help identify who else is working with the family
- Make use of the safeguarding inbox addresses
- Ask for clarification if you don't know what a 'order' for an adult means and what impact it has

What Good Practice did we see?

- Evidence of listening to the voice of the child
- Good package of care provided by education
- Some good working relationships between young people and professionals
- Evidence of good information sharing between core agencies

Organisations that audited their involvement with the three children were: Children's Social Care, GPs, Sirona, NBT, Police, YOT, EDT, Preventative Services, Probation, CRC, Camhs.



Themes for Learning – What is life like for this child?

- There was evidence of good relationships between professionals and the children
- It was still hard to know what day to day life is like for the child.
- Practitioners should use tools available and ask key questions to understand a 'day in the life' for children they work with



The Exploitation Identification tool has replaced SERAF
[Click here to see it](#)



Impact of Covid-19

There was an impact of being able to engage with parents as well as usual because of pressures related to covid



Probation workers should always ask about children with every adult



Ensure risk assessments are regularly updated and reviewed

Themes for Learning

What we found:

It was clear that incidents were being seen in isolation, and professionals were not always aware of the 'bigger picture' either in terms of knowing who else is working with a child or in the history of previous work.

What needs to happen?

Use of multi agency meetings where there are lots of agencies involved or complex risks is good practice to be able to share information effectively

What we found?

Children are experiencing long delays for Autistic Spectrum Disorder assessments

What needs to Happen?

This is already a priority for the Best Start for Children with Complex Needs Workstream



[What is a Restraining Order?](#)

[What is a Non-Molestation Order?](#)

[Click here to access the Domestic Abuse Toolkit](#)

[Click here for the Safeguarding Inbox for CRC](#)

[Click here for the Safeguarding Inbox for Probation](#)