

## **Annual Performance Assessment and Joint Area Review**

### **SUMMARY**

- 1 This report provides an update on the recent changes to Annual Performance Assessment (APA) and Joint Area Review (JAR) inspection processes. These will apply to the APA inspection in September and JAR in October 2007.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 To note the content of the report.
- 2.2 To note the resource requirements to meet the inspection preparation.
- 2.3 To give support to the inspection process where appropriate.



DERBY CITY COUNCIL

**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMISSION**  
**13 MARCH 2007**

## **Annual Performance Assessment and Joint Area Review**

### **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

#### **1. Annual Performance Assessment**

1.1 Detailed information on the arrangements for APA will be published by the end of March, alongside a revised handbook of procedures. In the meantime, the proposed changes have been highlighted:

- there will be no separate self-assessment; instead, use will be made of the Children and Young People's plan and its review
- the views of 1,200 – 1,300 children and young people will be gathered through a revised Tellus survey in May
- the data set used will be the same for the APA and JAR
- inspectors will make judgements on the contribution that services make towards improving each of the five outcomes and award a grade for each
- there will not be a separate judgement on children's social care.

1.2 The outcome of these changes means that the first stage of the scrutiny for Derby will now take place in July/ August. The team will analyse briefings, the CYP plan, the review of its progress and other supporting information. Information needs to be submitted to Ofsted by 14 June, together with our own self-evaluated grades. There will be no expectation that the former Self Evaluation Form (SEF) template will be complete. Instead, we need to submit our own self-evaluated grades for:

- services for each of the five Every Child Matters outcomes
- children's services
- the capacity of the Council to improve these services.

The DfES will issue guidance in late March about how the review of the Children and Young People's Plan should be conducted and detailed assessment of the progress in improvements so far. This document will be used for both the APA and the Joint Area Review and will replace the previous self-assessments.

- 1.3 There will be three days' scrutiny in July/August, which will provide the APA team the opportunity to familiarise themselves with our plan, APA briefings and other supporting information. During this scrutiny period meetings will be held with colleagues within Ofsted or other inspectorates/government officers who have knowledge and information of partners' services.
- 1.4 The team will spend a further two days in September analysing the data sets, the outcome of the Tellus survey and school perception survey. The team will conduct one day of face-to-face interviews in the week beginning 24 September. As with previous APA visits, some headline feedback will be given at the end of the on-site visit. The draft letter and judgements will be published during October, with the final letter published on Ofsted's website in November.

## **2 Joint Area Review (JAR)**

- 2.1 A draft paper summarising the methodology of the JAR has already been sent to the local authority, followed at the end of February with the revised grade descriptors. By the end of March details will be issued on how the inspectors will conduct the investigations into the three core areas of:
  - safeguarding
  - children looked after
  - children and young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities.
- 2.2 In addition to the three core areas, a minimum of three other areas will be investigated. These will have been either identified in the 2006 APA or through self-assessment and data analysis for the 2007 APA.
- 2.3 The JAR team will be on site for up to two weeks. They will want to speak with users of services, those who deliver services and seek the views of children, young people, their parents, carers and schools.
- 2.4 There will be detailed case file analysis where the team will be looking for strengths and weaknesses in collaborative working. At present, the requirement to submit a sample of 100 case files with 10 being chosen remains in place.
- 2.5 There will not be an in-depth neighbourhood field study. This will be replaced by the inspection team following evidence trails in a number of neighbourhoods based in part on the case file analysis.

## **3 Gathering the views of children and young people**

- 3.1 The DfES, in partnership with Ofsted, is currently developing a new Tellus survey, to be called Tellus 2. This information will be used to develop a national database so that local authorities can benchmark the responses from children and young people in their area against a national comparator.

## 4 Presentation of data

- 4.1 The performance indicators used to support inspections in 2007 will remain largely unchanged from 2006. However, the 2007 APA data set will include all the Joint Area Review indicators; this will enable authorities and inspectors to recognise the contribution the Council makes to improving outcomes for children and young people in the context of wider partnership provision.

There will be new sets of statistical neighbours to be used across all children's services data and it is proposed that these will be launched shortly and applied to all data in the 2007 APA data set.

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Appendix 1 Implications

<b>IMPLICATIONS</b>
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**Financial**

1. The Council has set aside in its proposed 2007/08 budget a sum of £75,000 covering additional costs relating to the Joint Area Review.

**Legal**

2. All local authorities are subject to an Annual Performance Assessment, which must now be based upon a review of the Children and Young People's Plan. The requirements are set out in Children and Young People's Plan Statutory Instruments and Regulations 2007.

**Personnel**

3. A small project team has been established for eight months, through secondment of staff from within the Children and Young People's Department, to project manage the inspection process.

**Equalities impact**

4. The inspection process will ensure that all Children, Young People, their parents and carers are receiving a good quality services from the Children and Young People's Department, in partnership with the members of the wider City for Children and Young People.

**Corporate priorities**

5. The inspection processes will ensure **the Delivery of excellent services, performance and value for money.**