

Joint inspections of services for children and young people in need of care and protection

External Guidance fieldwork activities

Publication date: January 2020

Publication code (006)

External Guidance on Fieldwork Activities for the joint inspection of children and young people in need of care and protection

Fieldwork activity is one method used for gathering information in joint inspections. 'Fieldwork activity' refers to the ability to have conversations with children or young people and those who directly or indirectly have experience living or working with children and young people in need of care and protection.

There are two periods in the inspection footprint which facilitate this activity.

- Week 12 of the inspection: Wednesday (pm), Thursday and Friday specifically to gather the views and experiences of children and young people in need of care and protection and parents and carers.
- Week 17 of the inspection: Monday – Friday to continue to gather the views and experiences of children and young people in need of care and protection and their parents and carers. Additionally, to gather the views and experiences of those who directly or indirectly have experience of living or working with children and young people in need of care and protection.

If there are particular pre-arranged events that the partnership is running, there is also the possibility of being flexible and attending such an event out-with the set weeks if this is agreed by the inspection lead.

Fieldwork activity will include:

gathering views of

- children and young people in need of care and protection
- parents and carers
- frontline staff
- other staff
- leaders

by carrying out

- individual interviews
- small group interviews
- focus groups
- observations of practice
- visits to services
- attending already established meetings/ activities/ groups

using

- face to face discussion
- telephone/ facetime/ conference/ video call
- written feedback (for example using post-its, talking walls, flip charts)
- other technology
- games

As a joint inspection team we always want to have:

Conversations with children and young people who are care experienced or have been involved in child protection processes

- Children in need of care and protection
- Young people in need of care and protection
- Young adults who have been looked after
- Brothers and sisters of children and young people in need of care and protection

Conversations with the parents, carers and involved relatives of children and young people who are care experienced or have been involved in child protection processes

- Parents of children, young people and young adults who are, or have been, in need of care and protection
- Kinship carers
- Involved relatives
- Foster carers and supported carers and those providing short breaks

Conversations with staff directly or indirectly involved with children and young people who are in need of care and protection

- Staff and volunteers in third sector and local community organisations
- Frontline staff: teachers, social workers, police and fire officers, health visitors, support workers in children, young people's and relevant adult services, residential workers and advocacy workers
- First line managers/ team leaders of frontline staff
- Children's reporters and panel members
- Out of hours workers including social work, nursing and GP services, crisis teams and any specialist service provision

Conversations with senior officers and leaders of services involved directly or indirectly with children and young people who are in need of care and protection

- Chief officers and chief executives including chairs of the child protection committee, community planning partnership, integrated joint board and children's services planning group
- Child protection lead officer, chief social work officer, relevant heads of service in Education, Health, Police and Social Work and locality reporters manager
- Elected members and non-executive NHS board members
- Mental health, addictions, housing and homelessness leads for children and young people

The content of each conversation will link with the five questions and also the 22 quality indicators. However, the detail for each inspection will depend on the circumstances unique to that particular joint inspection and will be informed by the findings that have already been undertaken and areas of uncertainty that have been scoped.

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