

When is it taking place?

The inspection will take place during April and May 2007. Some of the key dates are:

12 January

Set-up meeting

The JAR Lead Inspector met with the chief executive, lead member, director of children's services, and two assistant directors of children's services to give further information about the focus of the JAR.

19 March

Youth Service self-assessment due

16-20 April

Youth Offending Service inspection

Results of this will feed into the JAR.

18-20 April

Analysis week

The team of JAR inspectors will spend three days in our borough, reading the documents provided as background to the area and the services provided for children and young people here.

20 April

Programme for fieldwork agreed

The JAR Lead Inspector will meet with director of children's services to agree what the fieldwork will examine and who will be involved in interviews, focus groups and visits.

8-18 May

Fieldwork

The JAR Inspection team will be in our borough, holding meetings and visiting services.

14 August

JAR report

The findings of the JAR are due to be published on Ofsted's website.

What happens after the inspection?

Once their inspection is complete, the JAR team will leave Hammersmith & Fulham to write a report which will cover all five 'Outcomes for Children'. After four weeks, the draft report will be sent to the director of children's services for comment. There will then be a follow up meeting to discuss the findings before the final report is issued in August 2007.

We will then be required to produce an action plan on issues for development that are raised in the JAR report. The results also feed into the council's Corporate Assessment.

Want to know more?

For more information about the JAR, see the JAR pages of the council's website: www.lbhf.gov.uk/jar

A project team has been set up to oversee the preparation for the JAR. If you have any questions or want to know more you can contact them:

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THE JOINT AREA REVIEW (JAR)

What does it mean
for you?

The **Joint Area Review (JAR)** is coming to Hammersmith & Fulham this April and May. This inspection is our opportunity to prove how well we are providing for children and young people and to find out where we could be doing better. During the JAR an inspector may visit you or you may be part of a focus group. Work you have been doing with a particular child may be the subject of intense investigation.

Being subject to an inspection, particularly a new type of inspection, is understandably a stressful time for all involved. We want to help you feel as prepared as you can be by giving you all the information we can as soon as possible, and to support you by answering any questions you have about the JAR.

In return, we would like you to keep up-to-date with news and developments by reading information we send you about the JAR, ensuring you are aware of what is available for children and young people in the borough, and sharing your experiences of the inspection with colleagues by emailing the JAR project team.

What does the JAR involve?

The JAR is a single inspection of all publicly-funded services for children and young people within a local area. It replaces separate inspections of LEAs, social services, Connexions and provision for 14-19 year olds. The JAR will look at how our services are improving the lives of children and young people in the borough, particularly those who are most at risk - looked after children, children on the Child Protection Register, and those with learning difficulties and disabilities.

The inspection will examine the leadership and management of services and how they work together

to support children and young people in the five Every Child Matters outcomes:

- stay safe
- be healthy
- enjoy and achieve
- make a positive contribution
- achieve economic wellbeing

It will look at how the priorities in the Children and Young People's Plan are being addressed. The Children and Young People's Plan can be found on the council's website (www.lbhf.gov.uk).

The JAR will include an inspection of the council's youth service and will happen at the same time as the children's services Annual Performance Assessment (APA) and the Corporate Assessment (CA) of the council. The results of the JAR will provide an external view on how well we are doing. There will also be an inspection of the Youth Offending Service in April, the results of which will also feed into the JAR.

What are the aims of the JAR?

The inspection process reports on the outcomes achieved for children and young people growing up in Hammersmith & Fulham, and evaluates the way local services work together to contribute to their wellbeing.

Who are the inspectors?

The JAR inspection team includes many areas of expertise. The JAR is led by Ofsted, who will have responsibility for education and children's social care services inspections from May this year. It is likely to also include inspectors from the Health Care Commission (HCC), Audit Commission and HMI of Constabulary (HMIC). Different inspectors will lead on the Youth Offending Service and Enhanced Youth inspections, who will also feed their results into the JAR.

The Audit Commission inspector is a member of both the JAR and CA teams to help coordinate the inspection and findings of both teams. The lead inspector for Hammersmith & Fulham will be Martin Ayres from Ofsted.

How are we preparing for the JAR?

Work has begun on preparing for the inspection. This includes:

- Detailed case tracking and analysis of the case records for 10 selected vulnerable children in the borough, and questionnaires completed by professionals who work with them.
- Other inspection reports such as for schools or colleges or social care.
- Collating over 40 key documents including plans, strategies, performance reports and evidence of involvement of children and young people.
- Identifying areas of concern where action needs to be taken.

What happens during the inspection?

The inspection team will spend three days in April analysing the information they requested. They will then make a series of key judgments on our services, which will be the focus of the in-borough inspection in May.

The JAR inspection team will spend two weeks in Hammersmith & Fulham in May, visiting services throughout the borough to observe frontline work and to gather evidence in local neighbourhoods. They will meet with children, their parents and carers, managers and frontline staff, partners and elected members. You may be asked to attend an interview or take part in a focus group. The team will also meet with some of the families identified in the case-tracking to follow up identified lines of enquiry.

