

7 Minute Briefing – Domestic Abuse JTAI

01 Domestic Abuse in Sandwell

Each year thousands of children live in households in Sandwell where domestic violence and abuse occurs. During 2016-17 there were 3322 cases screened by the Multi-Agency Domestic Abuse Screening Team. A further 2801 cases have been reported between April - September 2017. Domestic abuse continues to be one of the most significant reasons for contacts to the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) about safeguarding concerns for Sandwell children.

02 What is the JTAI?

In January 2016, the government published guidance on a new inspection framework known as the Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI). The JTAIs are joint inspections carried out by Ofsted, the Care Quality Commission (CQC), Her Majesty's Inspectorate of the Constabulary (HMIC) and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation. The theme for September 2016 to March 2017 was the response to children living with Domestic Abuse. In September 2017 a [report was published](#) that shared the findings from this JTAI programme

07 SSCB

The LSCB actively monitors, promotes, coordinates and evaluates the work of the statutory partners that help and protect children, including working effectively with other multi-agency groups that have responsibility for responding to domestic abuse. Following publication of the JTAI report, SSCB have met with key partners and are in the process of working alongside them to address the key findings from the JTAI.

03 Key Observations

- Children need to be understood and supported as individuals as their experience and needs may differ - children and young people should always be considered within the context of responding to domestic abuse
- Responses need to be age appropriate to the child or young person
- A holistic view, not just of one incident or person in the family, is needed. Domestic abuse is often a pattern across a timeline, rather than an isolated incident - it is crucial to recognise that ongoing work is needed.



06 Areas of Good Practice

- Good use of age-appropriate tools to understand the range of risks that children face
- Strategic overview of domestic abuse undertaken aided the understanding of patterns/ trends

04 Key Observations

- It is essential to maintain focus on perpetrators of abuse
- It is important to avoid putting inappropriate responsibility on victims, and blaming them for the abuse. Ensure appropriate support is in place for them.
- Be aware that separation can be as, if not more, dangerous to victims and that leaving an abusive situation may not mean the end of domestic abuse
- Improving information and education for children and young people may support them to be aware of what they are experiencing and encourage them to talk about it.

05 Key Observations

- We must begin to consider how to move from crisis response to prevention and earlier intervention
- Responding effectively in a crisis is not enough – professionals should be enabled to respond well in non-crisis and post-crisis situations