

Forthcoming Inspection Activity

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Children and Culture



Inspections for Children and Culture



- There are three separate inspection regimes that directly inspect the services within the Children and Culture Directorate.
 - Inspection of local areas' effectiveness in identifying and meeting the needs of children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND Inspection)
 - Youth Offending Services Inspection
 - Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services (ILACS)



SEND Inspection



- This inspection is a Local Area Inspection conducted jointly by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC)
- This inspection examines services provided by both the Local Authority and the Clinical Commissioning Group.
- Takes place over a week and involves meeting with representatives from various services provided by the LA and CCG. Inspectors also meet with parents and service users.
- Schools will be visited as part of the inspection, although they are not inspected themselves.



SEND Inspection



- Inspections currently on hold but will resume shortly. We are amongst the last cohort who have not yet been inspected and as such expect this to take place imminently.
- If significant concerns are identified, the local area will be asked to produce a written statement of action. This will be monitored and a follow up inspection will be undertaken. Over 50% of Local Areas are required to produce a WSOA.
- We have been planning for this inspection for a long time, with regular meetings taking place chaired by senior officers. Improvement plans and performance have been impacted by the pandemic and urgent work is underway to recover ground.



Youth Justice Inspection



- Inspection undertaken by Her Majesties Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP).
- Most inspections are single inspections but a small amount are joint and include inspectors from other inspectorates and look at the wider youth justice system.
- Inspections take place over a week (or longer for a joint inspection). Inspectors will sample a number of cases and meet with case managers and others involved in process.
- Tower Hamlets manages Youth Justice for the City of London and as such, any inspection will also include young people from the City.



Youth Justice Inspection



- Face to face inspections are currently suspended. A number of smaller YOT's were inspected remotely but Tower Hamlets and the City YJS does not qualify as a "small YOT".
- Inspections result in a graded judgment - Outstanding, Good, Requires Improvement and Inadequate and an inspection report will be published.
- Planning for this inspection has been taking place for a long time. There are monthly planning meetings which are chaired by the Divisional Director for Children's Social Care and attended by key stakeholders



ILACS



- We are 18 months post our last inspection when we were rated as Good. We are not due another inspection just yet but are expecting a focused visit.
- These are due to resume imminently within an amended framework to provided assurance in respect to our response to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- If we do not receive such an assurance visit soon, we will still receive at least one focused visit or Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI) before our next inspection. A focused visit will look in detail at one particular area of the service for example the front door, or looked after children.



ILACS



- Due to the pandemic, we did not receive a focused visit or JTAI during 2020, although we did have our annual engagement visit and remained in regular contact with our link inspection from Ofsted.
- Planning for a focused visit and our next inspection is ongoing.
- The TH Safeguarding Children's Partnership is undertaking the planning for a potential JTAI which would be a thematic inspection of all partners by multiple inspectorates

