

Joint Targeted Area Inspection: Reading

Multi-Agency Improvement Plan

Area for priority action:

Improvement Objectives - SUMMARY

SUMMARY OF CHANGE REQUIRED

The JTAI identified the following areas of improvement, this plans list the actions that will contribute to one of more of these areas under each theme:

1. *The voice and experience of individual children exposed to domestic abuse, so they are listened to and acted on by practitioners across the partnership.*
2. *Strategy meetings and other safeguarding meetings involving children should involve all relevant partners and happen in a timely manner.*
3. *Issues with timely and consistent information sharing relating to risk, needs and plans for children.*
4. *Understanding of threshold of need across the partnership to meet the children's needs.*
5. *Consideration of the cumulative impact of repeated experience of domestic abuse and cumulative impact on the child.*
6. *Children's safeguarding partnership use and insight of detailed and relevant data to help understand the impact on children who are victims of domestic abuse.*
7. *Commissioning of support services for children and families.*
8. *Oversight and effectiveness of MARAC arrangements.*
9. *Ensuring effective challenge and escalation when an appropriate response is not received.*
10. *Strategic governance arrangements to ensure they are aligned with other partnerships for children who are victims of domestic abuse.*

Characteristics of good:

Children's voices are clearly articulated and their lived experience of domestic abuse and its impact is well understood. This understanding, informed by a comprehensive local problem profile, informs operational and strategic responses to domestic abuse that are delivered to a high standard across the local partnership in a coordinated way. Risk management, safeguarding thresholds and responses are well understood by all agencies and where issues arise/standards are not met, partners adopt a solution focused, collaborative approach to problem-solving which includes the appropriate & timely use of formal escalation processes. MASA priorities are child focused and progress against outcomes is informed by a partnership data set. MASA governance is aligned across other partnerships, including those where children are not the sole focus.

Key - Action

Blue	Completed
Green	On track
Amber	Emerging possibility that action will not be completed on time, attention needed
Red	Highly likely action will not be completed on time, urgent action needed

Key - Impact

Green	Positive impact
Amber	Moderate impact, or mechanisms to measure impact are in place but data is not yet available.
Red	No or limited impact, or no mechanisms in place to measure impact.

Improvement Objective 4: *THRESHOLD OF NEED*

Ref	Objectives and actions	Complete by	Owners	Progress RAG	Impact RAG	Evidence	Comments
8.1	MULTI-AGENCY: The partnership seeks assurance that within MARAC meetings children's voices are clearly reflected in the actions set, so that children are seen, heard & safe, and that these actions are leading to better outcomes for the children.	30.09.2025	C Supt Felicity Parker	Green	Amber	There is a MARAC steering group for Berks West chaired by Karen Evans, Wokingham LA and been in place for 1 year. It meets every quarter. The group has been asked for assurance of VofC is reflected in the actions and discussions. This should feed into this JTAI governance, the BWSCP and Reading CSP governance (the governance for DA is complex). The MARAC chair, DI Jackson is confident that actions are set in a through way in relation to VofC and they are chased and completed in a timely way. This needs assurance.	MARAC lead to review CSC attendance at MARAC Reading so that representatives consistently have the relevant information about named children and families to add value to the meeting
8.2	MULTI-AGENCY: The partnership seeks assurance that there is sufficient, effective, multi agency governance of the MARAC; driving performance and outcomes for children in Reading.	30.09.2026	C Supt Felicity Parker	Green	Amber	MARAC steering group provides scrutiny. Reporting of this steering group will be agreed in line with learning from the DA Strategic Partnership review.	Engagement with the findings of the Review of the DA Strategic Partnership Board will support the partnership to agree a governance structure for the MARAC
Improvement Objective 9: CHALLENGE AND ESCALATION							
9.1	MULTI-AGENCY: The partnership takes action to evidence how professionals effectively challenge and escalate concerns about children that are not receiving an adequate response, and how this impacts on the lives of children.	30.06.25	BWSCP DSP	Blue	Amber	The BWSCP Escalation Policy has been re-shared across all partners. A single escalation tracker is now in place in BFfC, with regular reporting to monitor progress and mitigate delays. A meeting was held by the JTAI Operational Group on 16/07/2025 to ensure and confirm that operational practice consistently supports strategic discussions within required timescales. U to further explore opportunities to enhance the escalation tracker as a collaborative partnership tool.	Mapping of escalation policies has been completed and confirms alignment of practice and expectations across the partnership. The RAG rating for progress was updated to blue on 16 July to reflect that actions have been taken to track, scrutinise, and report on escalations. This will remain an area of ongoing monitoring to assess impact. While formal impact measurement has not yet taken place—hence the amber RAG rating—early indicators show improvement. Escalations are occurring, leadership oversight has strengthened, and there is greater visibility and responsiveness. Case studies are emerging that demonstrate positive impact, including improved response times.
Improvement Objective 10: STRATEGIC GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS							
10.1	MULTI-AGENCY: Strengthen the role and oversight that the performance and Quality Improvement Sub Group and the Berkshire West Executive have to ensure both forums hold all partners to account and provide appropriate scrutiny and direction in order to secure the improvement required.	30.09.2025	BWSCP DSP	Green	Amber	Each local authority will have a Quality & Impact Partnerships (QIPs) and there will also be a chairs' meeting. Attendance at chairs' meeting (by LL or others depending on capacity) will help gather oversight and feedback into the work. The DA Children's multi-agency task and finish group will report into both the DA Partnership Board and the QIP.	Link to BWSCP DA Priority 3 actions regarding governance and Scrutiny. New BWSCP Quality Impact Partnerships being developed to replace BWSCP Independent Scrutiny and Impact groups. First QIP took place in Sept, so impact is amber.
10.2	MULTI-AGENCY: Strengthen formal communication and reporting arrangement across the strategic partnership - Domestic Abuse Board, Safeguarding Children Partnership, Community Safety Partnership etc	30.09.2025	BWSCP DSP	Green	Amber	The DA Children's multi-agency task and finish group will report into both the DA Partnership Board (which reports into the CSP) and the QIP (which reports into the BWSCP DSP's), strengthening and aligning reporting arrangements.	This is a new arrangement and unable to measure impact until meeting and reporting cycles are embedded.