**Joint Targeted Area Inspection**

On 25th June 2019 notification was received that the Care Quality Commission (CQC), HMI Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) and HMI Probation (HMIP) would be undertaking a Joint targeted inspection of the multi-agency response to children experiencing or at risk of exploitation, including sexual and criminal exploitation, in Halton. Preparation by the inspection team began immediately with the onsite field work taking place between 8th and 12th July 2019.

As was the case in the Ofsted Focused Visit in July 2019 the different inspectorates do not make a judgement from the JTAI rather a narrative letter sets out their findings, outlines the strengths and sets out the areas for development.

The different inspectorates evaluated the multi-agency ‘front door’ for child protection, focusing on children experiencing or at risk of child exploitation. A more detailed review, ‘deep dive’, was undertaken of seven vulnerable children who were known to be in this situation of concern. Finally Inspectors also considered the effectiveness of the multi-agency leadership and management of this work, including the role played by the Halton safeguarding children board (HSCB) now known as the Halton children and young people safeguarding partnership (HCYPSP).

From an Education perspective the College, PRU and a number of both secondary and primary schools were involved in the inspection process and I would like to thank them for their valuable contribution and support.

An area for development we will need to work in partnership with all of you is to improve the attendance of some of our most vulnerable children and young people and this will be a key area of focus during this academic year.

I have attached a copy of the full inspection letter for your information. As a local area we feel that the findings are fair and accurately reflect the position in Halton at this time and the progress we have made. We welcome the recommendations and will be using these to inform our further development.

We are pleased that the inspectors acknowledged that the senior leaders in the Halton local area partnership “have a clear vision and strong commitment to working together to meet the needs of vulnerable children. You will see that the attached letter sets out the significant areas of strengths identified during the inspection process. There is also a case study which highlights the effective multi-agency response to reducing risk and improving safety for children and young people following the death a young person as a result of knife crime.

The letter also sets out the areas for improvement and illustrates some of these finding with a short case study.

The inspectorates did not identify any areas for immediate action or priority actions. However, as is the case with all JTAIs a written statement of proposed action to the findings of the letter must be produced. This must be a multi-agency response and must involve the National Probation Service, Community Rehabilitation Company, Youth Justice Service, the Police, Clinical Commissioning Group and health providers. The statement should set out the actions of the partnership in response to the inspection and where appropriate the actions of individual agencies. This response must be submitted by 2nd December 2019.

Ann McIntyre

13th September 2019