

# Joint inspections of services for children and young people subject to compulsory supervision orders living at home with their parents

Partnership briefing

Overview and timeline

Publication date: August 2025

Publication code 01

**The purpose of this briefing is to provide an overview of our approach.**

In August 2025 we published our [review of findings from the joint inspection programme 2021 - 2025](#). This summarised and reflected on the findings from joint inspections of services for children and young people at risk of harm within 15 community planning partnership areas. Within this report we concluded:

*“In these joint inspections, similar to the previous programme, we continued to note certain children and young people whose outcomes remained poorer than their peers. Despite much work having been undertaken to improve approaches to corporate parenting, for example, the outcomes for children and young people subject to compulsory supervision orders and living at home remained an area in which partnerships could not easily demonstrate an improvement in outcomes. For this reason, we will focus our next joint inspection programme on these children and young people.”*

The Public Services Reform (Scotland) Act 2010 S.115 provides the legal basis for joint inspections and this, along with the Public Services Reform (Joint Inspections) (Scotland) Regulations 2011 Regulations enables inspectors to carry out a range of activities to gather evidence for inspection purposes. Please note that a data protection impact assessment has been completed. The Care Inspectorate’s core privacy notice can be found [here](#).

These joint inspections are led by the Care Inspectorate and involve inspectors from Education Scotland, His Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland and Healthcare Improvement Scotland. Inspection teams also include young inspection volunteers and associate assessors.

### **The scope of the joint inspection**

Our joint inspections will consider the impact of services on children and young people who have been subject to a compulsory supervision order while living at home with their parents. As with our previous joint inspection models, we will consider evidence from the past two years. Central to our focus is the impact of services on the lives of children and their families.

- Acknowledging the varying legal definitions of a **child**, we use the term in this context to encompass children and young people under the age of 18. This includes young people who are now over the age of 18 years but were under the age of 18 while subject to a compulsory supervision order living at home with their parents the last two years of the agreed date.
- When we refer to **parents** we mean birth or adoptive parents and parents’ partners where they are not the child’s parent but reside with them and have a significant caring role. We do not mean formal carers for example a foster carer who provides respite care or a kinship carer.
- When we refer to children who have been **subject to a compulsory supervision order while living at home** with their parents, we mean all children who have been on full or interim compulsory supervision orders while living at home with their parents within two years of the date agreed with the

partnership. This includes children who may have since had variations to their compulsory supervision orders to include a difference place of residence, such as with foster carers or a children's house. It includes children who are no longer subject to compulsory supervision orders and/ or if the order has transferred out of the local authority.

## **Approach and framework**

Inspections are underpinned by the [quality framework for children and young people in need of care and protection \(November 2022\)](#). This framework is informed by the principles of the European Framework for Quality Management (EFQM) model which incorporates three tenets:

- Direction – clarity of purpose and strategy to achieve aims
- Execution – implementation of the strategy through delivery
- Results – what results have been achieved

In each joint inspection we will consider the following key lines of enquiry:

1. Children and young people are well supported to live with their families. This support helps to keep them safe, overcome difficulties and makes a positive difference in their lives.
2. The services children and young people receive are well planned and delivered in a way which is compassionate and by staff who put children and young people at the heart of decision-making. People in the workforce ensure that children, young people and parents are meaningfully listened to, heard and included.
3. Leaders and managers work well together to create and maintain a joined-up system of care which delivers the right services to each child at the right time. This provides children and young people, their parents and the workforce with help, support and accountability.

## **Our Approach to Reporting**

Following each joint inspection, we will publish a detailed and tailored written report. This report will complement and expand upon the meetings and feedback discussions held by inspectors with partnerships during the inspection. We will also create feedback specifically for children and young people. As well as reporting on the three key lines of enquiry noted above, we will evaluate four quality indicators on our six-point scale.

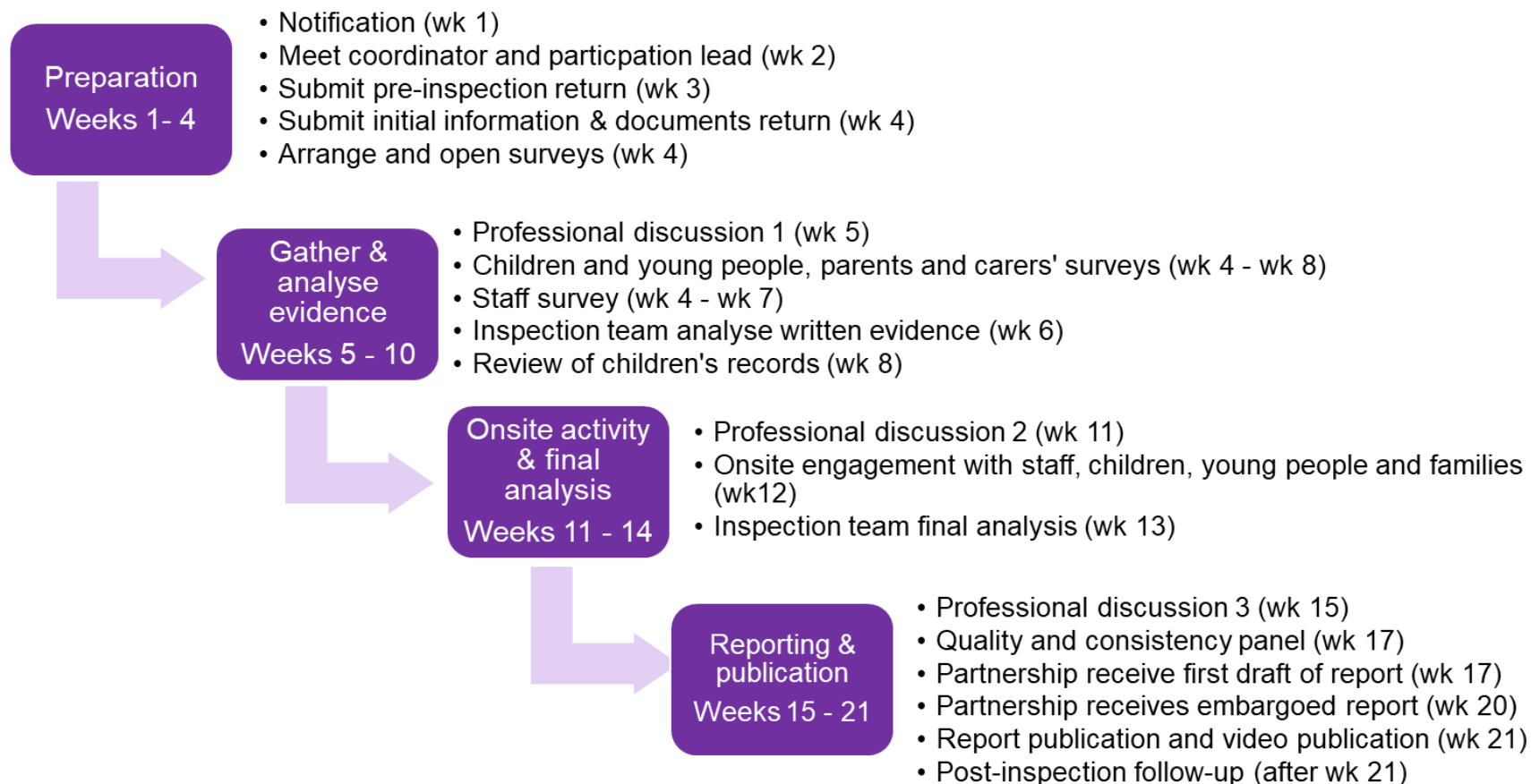
These are:

- Quality indicator 2.1: Impact on children and young people
- Quality indicator 5.3: Care planning, managing risk and effective intervention
- Quality indicator 5.4: Involving individual children, young people and families
- Quality indicator 9.2: Leadership of strategy and direction.

More information about our inspections, including a recording of our webinar, can be found on our website [here](#).

## Inspection timeline

The diagram below outlines the inspection timeline.



## Headquarters

Care Inspectorate  
Compass House  
11 Riverside Drive  
Dundee  
DD1 4NY

web: [www.careinspectorate.com](http://www.careinspectorate.com)

email: [enquiries@careinspectorate.gov.scot](mailto:enquiries@careinspectorate.gov.scot)

telephone: 0345 600 9527

**X**@careinspect

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