

Joint reviews - operational management arrangements

On the basis of a stocktaking exercise conducted after the first year of the new programme, SSIW and the WAO undertook to make changes in a number of areas, including improvements to the internal arrangements for organising and managing the joint review programme.

It was agreed that SSIW and the WAO would:

- formalise and document more clearly the partnership arrangement between SSIW and the WAO in a new agreement;
- each assign a member of staff to a programme management role, to improve operational management and consistency.

A copy of the new partnership agreement, signed by the Chief Inspector for Social Services in Wales and the Auditor General for Wales on April 11th 2006, has been placed on the joint review web-site (www.joint-reviews.gov.uk).

Pat Vogt (Deputy Chief Inspector, SSIW) and Paul Dimblebee (Partner, the WAO) are the Lead Managers for the programme, with joint executive responsibility for delivering joint reviews. Phil Evans will now take the lead for SSIW in helping to deliver improved operational management of the joint review programme and Val Connors will perform the same role for the WAO. Their key tasks are listed below.

- To assist the Lead Managers in managing and supporting the joint review programme.
- To manage joint review projects and processes, under the direction of the Lead Managers.

- To ensure that the respective responsibilities of the WAO and SSIW at an operational level are being carried out in accordance with the partnership agreement.
- To undertake quality assurance and monitoring functions in the delivery of each local authority review.
- To co-ordinate the contribution of their respective organisations to the joint review programme.
- To develop and maintain the methodology for joint reviews, in partnership with key stakeholders.
- To participate in joint reviews as lead reviewer or reviewer.
- To advise staff from both organisations on their participation in and contribution to joint reviews, ensuring that they are adequately briefed and trained to fulfil their respective roles.
- To carry out programme planning duties, ensuring that the overall programme and individual reviews within it are on track.
- To ensure that learning from each review and from the overall programme is captured and shared.
- To work with other inspectorates and regulatory bodies in delivering an integrated approach to joint reviews and associated activity.
- To represent SSIW and the WAO in relation to joint reviews and associated matters, with local authorities and their representative organisations (at officer and member levels), with the National Assembly for Wales and the Welsh Assembly Government, with the media and with national bodies.