

REPORT TO: CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES COMMITTEE ON 7 OCTOBER 2009

SUBJECT: JOINT INTERIM FOLLOW-THROUGH INSPECTION OF SERVICES TO PROTECT CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE MORAY AREA

BY: DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 To present to the Children & Young People's Services Committee a report on the joint interim follow-through inspection of child protection services.
- 1.2 This report is submitted to Committee in terms of the Council's Administrative Scheme relating to the exercising of functions of the Council under the Children (Scotland) Act 1995.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 **It is recommended that Committee notes and scrutinises the report on the joint interim follow-through inspection of child protection services.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 A joint inspection of services to protect children and young people in Moray was undertaken by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIE) between June and September 2008. The inspection report was published in February 2009 and an Action Plan submitted to HMIE thereafter.
- 3.2 Previous reports have been prepared on the 'Joint Inspection of Service to Protect Children and Young People in the Moray Council Area' and been submitted for the scrutiny of elected members as follows:-
 - (i) Moray Council on 25 February 2009 (para 5 refers)
 - (ii) Audit & Performance Review Committee 3 June 2009 (para 20 refers)
- 3.3 An interim follow-through inspection was conducted by HMIE in June 2009. It was a scaled-down version of the original inspection concentrating on the recommendations ie 'main points of action' from the original report. Copies of the interim follow-through inspection report have been made available to members.
- 3.4 The interim follow-through inspection report records the progress being made against the six key recommendations of the February report through the implementation of the Action Plan. The Action Plan is being driven forward through the Moray Chief Officer's Group for Child Protection, the Child Protection Sub-Committee of the Moray Council and the Child Protection Improvement Team established by the Director of Community Services to address social work issues.

- 3.5 The interim follow-through report notes tangible progress against the key recommendation some four months after the full report was published noting 'overall, encouraging progress has been made in a short time in tackling concerns raised in the initial inspection report'. It also acts as a guide to further work in the context of the Action Plan.
- 3.6 A further re-inspection will occur within one year to assess again the progress made in meeting the 'main points for action'.

4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

- (a) **Single Outcome Agreement/ Service Improvement Plan**
The Moray Council has statutory responsibilities to protect and promote the welfare of children and young people in need.
- (b) **Policy and Legal**
The Joint Inspection of Children's Services and Inspection of Social Work Services (Scotland) Act 2006 forms the basis for the conduct of child protection inspections.
- (c) **Resources (Financial, Risks, Staffing and Property)**
There are none directly associated with this report.
- (d) **Consultations**
The interim follow-through report was prepared by HMle following interviews with a wide range of staff on a multiagency basis.

5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1 HMle has carried out an interim follow-through inspection of services to protect children and young people in the Moray Council Area and have presented their findings in a report published on 1 October 2009.

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Background Papers: with author
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