



**REPORT TO: CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES COMMITTEE ON
4 FEBRUARY 2015**

SUBJECT: INSPECTION OF MORAY FOSTERING SERVICE

BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR (EDUCATION AND SOCIAL CARE)

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to invite the Committee to scrutinise and note the inspection of Moray's Fostering Service by the Care Inspectorate which was completed on 21 November 2014. A brief summary of the inspection report is provided at **APPENDIX 1**.
- 1.2 This report is submitted to Committee in terms of Section III D (2) of the Council's Administrative Scheme relating to the exercising of functions under the Children (Scotland) Act 1995.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 It is recommended that Committee scrutinises and notes the content of the inspection report into the Moray Fostering Service.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Moray Fostering Service provides a fostering and family placement service for children and young people aged 0-18 years. The service was previously registered with the Care Commission and transferred its registration to the Care Inspectorate on 1 April 2011.
- 3.2 The Council recruits, assesses, approves, supports and trains carers to provide a fostering service to a range of children throughout Moray. This includes long-term and short-term care as well as respite care.
- 3.3 The overall intention of foster care is to provide a family based alternative accommodation for children and young people who are not able to live at home.
- 3.4 Inspectors carry out a low intensity inspection when they are satisfied that services are working hard to provide consistently high standards of care; this was a short notice low intensity inspection carried out between 3–21 November 2014.
- 3.5 The evaluation for the Moray Fostering Service is as follows: -

- Quality of Care and Support 5 Very Good*
- Quality of Staffing 5 Very Good
- Quality of Management and Leadership 5 Very Good

*Inspectors report on these quality indicators using a six point scale on which "Very Good" reflects there are major strengths.

- 3.6 The full inspection report is available on the Members' Portal which details the service strengths and areas for improvement identified during the Inspection.
- 3.7 There was one requirement - The service provider needs to ensure that a resolution to the delay in the review of Foster Carers is found. This is in accordance with The Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland (Requirements for Care Services) Regulations 2011: Regulation: 4(1) (a), National Care Standards: Foster Care and Family Placement. The time allocation to meet this requirement was 2 months.
- 3.8 Following the retirement of the previous independent reviewing officer in April 2014 there was difficulty in recruiting another with the knowledge, skills and experience required for the position. At the time of the inspection discussion was underway with a knowledgeable person, skilled in fostering and adoption issues. That person has since indicated their willingness to undertake this role. First reviews are scheduled for January 2015.
- 3.9 There were no recommendations.
- 3.10 The action plan, which is a necessity when there is any requirement or recommendation, will confirm the issue of appointment of a reviewing officer has been resolved.
- 3.11 All other aspects referred to as areas for improvement are consistent with the service and team development plans.

4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

(a) Moray 2023: A Plan for the Future/Service Plan

(b)

Council priorities reflected in Moray Children and Young People's Services Plan, Corporate Parenting - Looked After Children.

(c) Policy and Legal

(d)

There are no direct policy or legal implications associated with this report.

(c) Financial implications

(d)

There are no specific financial implications associated with this report.

(d) Risk Implications

There are no specific risk implications associated with this report.

(e) Staffing Implications

There are no specific staffing implications associated with this report.

(f) Property

There are no specific property implications associated with this report.

(g) Equalities

There are no issues in this case.

(h) Consultations

Deborah Brands, Principal Accountant; Margaret Forrest, Legal Services Manager (Litigation & Licensing); Don Toonen, Equal Opportunities Officer; Katrina McGillivray, Senior Personnel Advisor and Caroline Howie, Committee Services Officer have been consulted in the preparation of this report and are in agreement with the content relating to their areas of responsibility.

5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1 That the Committee scrutinises and notes the contents of this report. As with previous inspections, this is a positive report which acknowledges the commitment of team members, the developments made and the continuing high standard of delivery of the service. This is a very good service.**

Author of Report: Jennifer Gordon, Corporate Parenting and Commissioning Manager and Carole Carthew, Placement Services Team Manager.

Background Papers: on Members' Portal
Ref: