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**REPORT TO: CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES COMMITTEE ON  
19 AUGUST 2015**

**SUBJECT: VALIDATED SELF-EVALUATION OF MORAY COUNCIL  
EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY SERVICES**

**BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR (EDUCATION AND SOCIAL CARE)**

**1. REASON FOR REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to invite Committee to scrutinise and note the report into the Validated Self-evaluation Exercise carried out by Education Scotland in respect of Moray Council Educational Psychology Services which was completed in May 2015.
- 1.2 This report is submitted to Committee in terms of Section III C (1) of the Council's Scheme of Administration relating to exercising the functions of the Council as Education Authority.

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

**2.1 It is recommended that Committee:**

- (i) note and scrutinise the content of the Validated Self-evaluation report into the Moray Educational Psychology Services attached as Appendix 1; and**
- (ii) commends the Service for such a positive report.**

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 Validated self-evaluation (VSE) is an evaluative activity which supports and challenges the work of Educational Psychology Services (EPS) by working collaboratively. It involves a partnership between the Education Authority, EPS and HM Inspectors, Education Scotland. In EPS the VSE focuses on two key themes:
- Learning and Teaching; and
  - Partnership Working.
- 3.2 Moray Educational Psychology Service's (MEPS) aim is to achieve the best possible outcomes for children and young people and their families. MEPS policy sets out a clear and robust process for self-evaluation and continuous improvement which informs their Strategic Improvement Plan. MEPS VSE looked at the impact and outcomes of the Educational Psychology Service:

- in supporting literacy difficulties across the five core functions of consultation, assessment, intervention, staff development and research; and
- in terms of partnership with parents, role clarity, multi-agency partnership working and transition in relation to the early years.

3.3 The report into the VSE of MEPS was published on 24 July 2015 and is attached to this report at **Appendix 1**. Overall it is a very positive report in respect of how MEPS go about self-evaluation and the contribution the service makes to self-evaluation, literacy and early years work in Moray. Although VSE reports do not give an evaluation in the same manner as inspection reports there is no doubt that those who visited Moray and took part in the VSE were impressed with what they saw.

3.4 Following on from the report it has been agreed that MEPS will now:

- use their sophisticated and very effective skills in self-evaluation to support the department in joint self-evaluation activities; and
- continue to build capacity in others to deliver key outcomes releasing time for the service to develop their strategic role further.

#### 4. **SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS**

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

This report is in line with Moray 2023 Plan – Ambitious and Confident Children and Young people, and Council priority 4 – More of our children have a better start in life and are ready to succeed.

##### **(b) Policy and Legal**

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

##### **(c) Financial implications**

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 This report outlines the findings of a recent Validated Self-evaluation exercise carried out in partnership between Education Scotland and Moray Educational Psychology Service. The findings were very positive and are reported in the report published by Education Scotland on 24 July 2015.**

Author of Report: Susan Maclaren, Head of Integrated Children's Services  
Background Papers:  
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