



**REPORT TO: CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES COMMITTEE ON
2 MARCH 2016**

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 30 November 2015.
- 1.2 This report is submitted to Committee in terms of Section III C (2) of the Council's Scheme of Administration relating to the exercising of the functions of the Council within the terms of relevant legislation with regard to Fostering.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 **It is recommended that the Committee scrutinise and note 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 inspection carried out between 16 - 30 November 2015.

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.

3.5.1 A brief summary of the inspection report is provided at **APPENDIX 1** to this report. The full inspection report is available on the Care Inspectorate website via the link below which details the service strengths and areas for improvement identified during the Inspection.

<http://www.careinspectorate.com/>

3.6 There were no requirements or recommendations.

3.7 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

This subject links to the Moray 2023 plan – More ambitious and confident children and young people able to fulfil their potential.

It is also linked to the Corporate Priority – More of our children have a better start to 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 As with previous Inspections this is a positive report which acknowledges commitment of team members, the developments made and the continuing high standard of delivery of the service. The team continue to deliver a very good service.

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

Background Papers:
Ref:

Moray Fostering Service

From the previous inspection which concluded on 21 November 2014 there were no recommendations and one requirement made on 9 December 2014.

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 Services: National Care Standard: 11:1 and 2 and the Looked After Children (Scotland) Regulations 2009 No. 210. Regulation 25(1) (a).

This requirement had been met and foster carer's reviews are now being held within the timescales. This has been assisted by a more detailed excel spreadsheet being in place which is monitored by very able administration staff.

The following reflects a summary of the inspection that concluded 30 November 2015.

What the service does well

- The service involves carers in all aspects of service provision.
- The service provides a high level of support to foster carers.
- Staff recordings are maintained to a high level, including assessment reports.
- Staff are well supported by the management team.
- It is recognised that by promoting the foster carers wellbeing this promotes better services to children.

What the service could do better

- Continue to ensure reviews are carried out within the timescales.

What the service has done since the last inspection

- A participation strategy document has been developed.
- An information booklet for children has been developed and circulated.
- A review of the fostering duty system has been carried out and acted upon.
- The smoking policy had been updated.

Conclusion

The Inspection found that the Moray Council Fostering Service continues to provide a very good service.

Enforcements

There has been no enforcement action against this service since the last inspection.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Evaluations

Current

Evaluations at November 2015

Quality of Care and Support	5 – Very Good
Quality of Staffing	5 – Very Good
Quality of Management and Leadership	5 – Very Good

Previous

Evaluations at November 2014

Quality of Care and Support	5 – Very Good
Quality of Staffing	5 – Very Good
Quality of Management and Leadership	5 – Very Good

Evaluations at December 2013

Quality of Care and Support	5 – Very Good
Quality of Staffing	5 – Very Good
Quality of Management and Leadership	4 – Good

Evaluations at February 2011

Quality of Care and Support	5 – Very Good
Quality of Staffing	Not assessed
Quality of Management and Leadership	Not assessed

Evaluations at February 2010

Quality of Care and Support	5 – Very Good
Quality of Staffing	5 – Very Good
Quality of Management and Leadership	Not assessed

Authority Commentary

As in previous Inspections this is an extremely positive report which continues to acknowledge the commitment of team members in addition to the developments made and continuing high standard of delivery of the service. It recognises that the team in support of children in foster placement includes Foster Carers, Children's Social Workers as well as members of the Fostering & Adoption Team and other relevant services and agencies. This continues to be a very good service.