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

**SUBJECT: INSPECTION OF MORAY ADOPTION 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 Adoption Service by the Care Inspectorate which was completed on 16 December 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 Adoption.

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Committee scrutinise and note the content of the inspection report into the Moray Adoption Service.**

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The Moray Adoption Service provides an adoption service for children and young people assessed as being in need of permanent care away from home and recruits and supports adoptive families to provide adoption placements.
- 3.2 The aims of the service include the provision of a child centred approach which promotes the development, learning and achievement of each individual; quality, safe care in a family setting; an integral approach; appropriate qualified and trained social work and social care staff.
- 3.3 The service was previously registered with the Care Commission and transferred its registration to the Care inspectorate on 1 April 2011.
- 3.4 The evaluation for the Moray Adoption 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 quality indicators using a six point scale on which 5 - Very Good reflects major strengths.

- 3.5** A brief summary of the inspection report is provided at **APPENDIX 1** to this report. The full inspection report is available to view at 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 and no recommendations arising from the inspection, and given this there is no formal action in response.

- 3.7** The team service improvement plan which is based upon self evaluation/continuous improvement will continue to progress actions to improve the services that have already been identified.

#### **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. The implementation of the Adoption and Children (Scotland) Act 2007 has resulted in increased requests for specific counselling support either individually or in groups. Changes to the assessment report format will assist with the identification of support needs and it is anticipated that the costs will be met from existing budget. The position will continue to be monitored by officers.

**(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 team continues to deliver 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:

## APPENDIX 1

**Moray Adoption Service**

From the previous inspection which concluded 21 November 2014 there were no requirements and no recommendations.

**What the service does well**

- Since the last inspection questionnaires had been sent out to all adopters regarding the pre adoption allowance. This meant that feedback gained would have a direct influence on the financial support to adopters.
- The current quality assurance systems that are in place are effective and able to evaluate the quality of service provision.
- Ongoing training and development was in place for all adopters to enable them to meet the needs of the children placed with them.

**What the service could do better**

- Continue to develop a consultation process with other stakeholders to evaluate practice and quality of service provision.
- Develop a system to enable the Team Manager to routinely gain feedback from prospective adopters at the approval stage.

**What the service has done since the last inspection**

Good progress had been made with regards to the quality assurance systems that are now in place.

**Conclusion**

Moray adoption service continues to provide a very good quality of service to people wishing to adopt children. The service provides very good support to prospective adopters and the quality of assessment reports presented to Moray adoption panel is of a very high standard.

**Enforcements**

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

**Requirements**

None identified at this inspection.

**Recommendations**

None identified at this inspection.

**Evaluations****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

**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

Previous

**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

**Evaluations at March 2009**

Quality of Care and Support	4 – Very Good
Quality of Staffing	4 – Very Good
Quality of Management and Leadership	Not assessed

**Authority Commentary**

As in previous Inspections this is an extremely positive report reflecting a very good service for the children whose permanent care needs are met through adoption and for carers who adopt children. There continues to be acknowledgement and recognition of the commitment of team members, the developments made within the service and to the continuing very good standard of delivery of the service.