

**REPORT TO: HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE SERVICES COMMITTEE ON
28 MAY 2008**

**SUBJECT: SOCIAL WORK INSPECTION AGENCY (SWIA) PERFORMANCE
INSPECTION - PROGRESS REPORT AND ACTION PLAN**

BY: DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

1. REASON FOR REPORT

1.1 This report advises Committee on progress in relation to the Action Plan developed following the Performance Inspection of Social Work Services in Moray during 2007.

1.2 This report is submitted to Committee in terms of Section E(1) of the Council's Administrative Scheme relating to the functions of the Council as Social work Authority under the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 The Committee is asked to:-

(i) scrutinise progress in relation the Action Plan to address policy and practice issues requiring improvement; and

(ii) note that the Director of Community Services will continue to submit reports to Service Committees and the Audit & Performance Review Committee, as required, on progress outlined in relation to the Action Plan.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 The inspection of Moray Council's Social Work Services took place between March and June 2007. This was the first comprehensive and detailed inspection of Social Work involving the Moray Council and it's Partners. All Members were given their own personal copies of both the full and summary versions of the inspection report on the day that SWIA published their document (14 December 2007), and representatives from SWIA have made themselves available on two occasions to present their findings.

3.2 A detailed report on the findings of the Inspection was presented to Education & Social Services Committee on 13 February 2008, along with a draft Action Plan. It was, however, reported on the day of the meeting that following slight amendments to the draft, SWIA had approved the Action Plan. A copy of the final Action Plan was made available to Members on 28 March 2008.

3.3 Although the Action Plan focuses on the 16 recommendations made by SWIA, the Inspection Report also referred to a number of issues, although not specified as recommendations, and these are being addressed as part of an

overall package of improvements. Examples of a wide range of developments being taken forward by staff in this respect will be reported at the next Committee cycle. The Action Plan in relation to SWIA's recommendations along with progress achieved to date is attached as **APPENDIX 1**.

4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

(a) Corporate Development Plan/Community Plan/Service Improvement Plan

The continuous improvement of Social Work Services by responding to external inspection is in accordance with the Council's commitments set out in the Corporate Development Plan to meet the requirements of external regulation and inspection of Services. Furthermore, the development and delivery of good quality social work provision is crucial to the aspirations of Moray's Community Plan and the priorities set out in the Single Outcome Agreement.

(b) Policy and Legal

There are no legal implications. Although there are no immediate policy implications arising from this report, the ongoing work outlined in the Action Plan may result in revised or new policies being presented at future Committees.

(c) Resources (Financial, Risks, Staffing and Property)

The measures identified within the Action Plan will be progressed within current financial resources.

(d) Consultations

Katrina MacGillivray, Senior Personnel Adviser; Lorraine Paisey, Principal Accountant; Karen Wiles, Principal Solicitor; and Community Services Senior Management Team have been consulted in the preparation of this report and are in agreement with its contents.

5. CONCLUSION

5.1 This report provides a progress update in relation to the Action Plan prepared following the Performance Inspection of Moray Council Social Work Services.

5.2 The update on the Action Plan provides Committee with an outline of how resources and activities are being focussed to progress improvement.

Background Papers:
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