

HMIE Inspection of the Educational Psychology Service

HMIE Report on the Educational Psychology Service was published in January 2008.

The performance of Educational Psychology Services is assessed by HM Inspectors of Education using the quality indicators described in their publication "Quality Management in Local Authority Educational Psychology Services". Formal inspections of Educational Psychology Services began in 2006. This is the first inspection of the service in Moray and the fifth inspection report to be published in Scotland.

When HMIE evaluate performance against the quality indicators they use 'standardised' language:

Level	Definition	Description
Level 6	Excellent	Provision which is clearly excellent or outstanding or sector leading.
Level 5	Very Good	Provision which has major strengths.
Level 4	Good	Provision with important strengths that clearly outweigh areas for improvement.
Level 3	Adequate	Provision where strengths just outweigh weaknesses.
Level 2	Weak	Provision with important weaknesses.
Level 1	Unsatisfactory	Provision which has major weaknesses and is unsatisfactory.

The authority has been asked to prepare an action plan indicating how they will address the main findings of the report. HMIE will maintain contact with the authority and will make a return visit within two years to evaluate progress

Copies of the HMIE report are available in the Members' Library and online.

The Indicators of Quality for Educational Psychology Service	
Quality Indicator	HMIE Evaluation
Improvements in performance	Good
Fulfilments of statutory duties	Very good
Impact on children and young people	Good
Impact on parents, carers and families	Very good
Impact on staff	Very good
Impact of the local community	Adequate
Impact on the wider community	Very good
Consultation and advice	Good
Assessment	Good
Intervention	
Provision of professional development and training for other groups including parents, teachers and health professionals	Very good
Research and strategic development	Adequate

Inclusion, equality and fairness	Very good
Policy development and review	Adequate
Participation of stakeholders	Weak
Operational planning	Good
Partnership working	Good
Leadership and direction	Good
Leadership of change and improvement	Good

In conclusion, this is a very positive report, which confirms the high quality of the Educational Psychology Service in Moray. The staff were highly motivated and had developed effective working relationships with children and young people and very good working partnerships with parents. A broad and balanced range of services was provided and educational psychologists were making a positive difference to schools, families and children. The service was judged to have a very strong capacity for continuous improvement. The main points for action are already being addressed with a particular emphasis upon research and development in collaboration with a range of stakeholders.