

REPORT TO: AUDIT & PERFORMANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE ON 23 APRIL 2008

SUBJECT: INSPECTION REPORTS – EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

BY: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform Audit and Performance Review Committee of the school inspections carried out by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIE) between January 2006 and January 2008 and for all other external inspections carried out during the Education and Social Service Committee reporting period between October 2007 and April 2008
- 1.2 This report is submitted to Committee in terms of Section G19 of the Council's Administrative Scheme relating to receiving reports on the performance of and trends within all of the Council's services in terms of performance information.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 **It is recommended that Audit and Performance Review Committee scrutinises the evaluation of quality indicators by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIE) in their inspection of Schools (Appendix 1).**
- 2.2 **It is recommended that Audit and Performance Review Committee scrutinises the evaluation and one requirement action of integrated inspection of Pre-school Centres by HMIE and the Care Commission (Appendix 2).**
- 2.3 **It is recommended that Audit and Performance Review Committee scrutinises the evaluation and 9 requirement actions of singleton inspection of Pre-school Centres by the Care Commission (Appendix 3).**
- 2.4 **It is recommended that the Audit and Performance Review Committee scrutinises progress against follow-through actions, following inspections of East End, Mortlach and Portknockie Primary Schools by The Moray Council (Appendix 4).**
- 2.5 **It is recommended that the Audit and Performance Review Committee scrutinises progress against interim follow-through actions following inspections of Tomintoul and Newmill Primary Schools by HMIE (Appendix 5).**
- 2.6 **It is recommended that the Audit and Performance Review Committee scrutinises progress against follow-through actions following the inspection of Keith Grammar School by HMIE (Appendix 6).**

- 2.7 It is recommended that the Audit and Performance Review Committee scrutinises progress against follow-through actions following inspections of Moray Leisure Centre Pre-school Nursery, Moray Steiner School Kindergarten and New Elgin Primary School Nursery Class by HMIE (Appendix 7).**
- 2.8 It is recommended that the Audit and Performance Review Committee scrutinises the evaluation of quality indicators by HMIE in their inspection of the Educational Psychology Service (Appendix 8).**
- 2.9 It is recommended that the Audit and Performance Review Committee scrutinises the evaluation of quality indicators by HMIE in their inspection of the education functions of The Moray Council (Appendix 9).**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1** During the Education and Social Service Committee reporting period between October 2007 and April 2008, Educational Services have been subject to a total of 32 external inspections including, four School Inspections, two interim follow-through inspections by HMIE, four follow-through inspections by HMIE (three of which were requested to be carried out by Moray Council), two Integrated Inspections of Pre-School Centres by HMIE and the Care Commission and three follow-through inspections by HMIE, fifteen Singleton Inspections of Pre-School Centres by the Care Commission, an inspection of Educational Psychology Service by HMIE and an inspection of the education functions of The Moray Council by HMIE, all of which have been reported to Education and Social Services Committee.
- 3.2** This Committee, at its meeting on 1 August 2007 (item 3.6), agreed that in order to further the scrutiny of performance, a summary of external inspection reports be submitted to identify areas of good practice, which could be duplicated in other areas and to give a picture of the overall performance of the Council within specific service areas.

4. SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS

- 4.1** During the period from August 2007 to January 2008, HMIE have published inspection reports in relation to three primary schools and one secondary school. In primary school inspections, the Council are achieving an average evaluation of good or better in all of the quality indicators, except one, i.e. good or better in: Structure of the Curriculum; Attainment in English Language; Attainment in Mathematics; The Teaching Process; Pupils' Learning Experiences; Meeting Pupils' Needs; Pastoral Care; Climate and Relationships; Expectations and Promoting Achievement; Equality and Fairness; Partnership with Parents, the School Board and the Community; Accommodation and Facilities; Leadership. The average evaluation for self-evaluation was 'adequate'.

- 4.2 During the period from October 2007 to January 2008, HMIE and the Care Commission published two integrated inspection reports in relation to pre-school centres. The reports highlighted six recommendations, intended to support improvements in the quality of service but which would not be subject to enforceable action and one requirement, actions which must be taken to ensure that regulations are met and there is compliance with relevant legislation.
- 4.3 During the period from October 2007 to January 2008, the Care Commission published fifteen singleton inspections reports in relation to pre-school centres. The reports highlighted twenty nine recommendations, intended to support improvements in the quality of service but which would not be subject to enforceable action and nine requirements, actions which must be taken to ensure that regulations are met and there is compliance with relevant legislation.
- 4.4 During the period from October 2007 to January 2008, the Moray Council Educational Services published three follow-through reports following earlier school inspections at East End Primary School, Mortlach Primary School and Portknockie Primary School. East End Primary School had two main points for action identified by HMIE and have made very good progress against both actions. Mortlach Primary School had five main points for action identified by HMIE and have made very good progress against one action and good progress against the other four actions. Portknockie Primary School had two main points for action identified by HMIE and have made good progress against one action and adequate progress against the other action.
- 4.5 During the period from October 2007 to January 2008, HMIE published one follow-through report following an earlier school inspection at Keith Grammar School. Keith Grammar School had five main points for actions identified by HMIE and have made very good progress against three actions and good progress against the two remaining actions.
- 4.6 During the period from October 2007 to January 2008, HMIE published three follow-through reports following earlier integrated pre-school inspections at Moray Leisure Centre Pre-school Nursery, Moray Steiner School Kindergarten and New Elgin Primary School Nursery Class. HMIE evaluated the progress made by Moray Leisure Centre Pre-school Nursery in achieving improvements based on the nine recommendations set out in the integrated inspection report as very good against one recommendation, good against five recommendations, adequate against two recommendations and weak against one recommendation. HMIE evaluated the progress made by Moray Steiner School Kindergarten in achieving improvements based on the eight recommendations set out in the integrated inspection report as very good against one recommendation, good against five recommendations and adequate against two recommendations. HMIE evaluated the progress made by New Elgin Primary School Nursery Class in achieving improvements based on the six recommendations set out in the integrated inspection report as very good against one recommendation, good against three recommendations and weak against two recommendations.

- 4.7 In January 2008, HMIE published a report on the Educational Psychology Service. HMIE evaluated the service, using eighteen quality indicators, as very good against six indicators, good against eight indicators, adequate against three indicators and weak against one indicator.
- 4.8 In January 2008, HMIE published a report on the education functions of the Moray Council. HMIE evaluated the service, using ten quality indicators, as good against eight indicators and adequate against two indicators.

5. **SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS**

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

This report meets the stated aims of the Working Principles of the Corporate Plan.

(b) Policy and Legal

HMIE inspect and report on a sample of Scottish schools every year. Their reports are intended to provide parents, local authorities and Scottish Ministers with information about how well schools are performing against the Quality Indicators for Education.

The Regulation of Care (Scotland) Act 2001 set up the Care Commission to register and inspect all the services regulated under the Act including nursery classes and playgroups.

The inspection of The Moray Council included the evaluation of the quality of educational psychology provision on behalf of stakeholders. The evaluation of education functions is conducted within a framework of quality indicators, which embody the Government's policy on Best Value.

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

None

(d) Consultations

Senior Officers within Educational Services have been consulted.

6. CONCLUSION

5.1 That the Committee scrutinises the contents of this report.

Author of Report: Donald Duncan, Director of Educational Services
Background Papers: Education and Social Services Committees, 3 October
2007, 28 November 2007, 13 February 2008 and 9 April
2008
Ref: