

**REPORT TO: AUDIT & PERFORMANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE
ON 20 JUNE 2012**

**SUBJECT: OUTCOME OF JOINT INSPECTION OF SERVICES TO PROTECT
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE MORAY COUNCIL
AREA – MAY 2012**

BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR (EDUCATION AND SOCIALCARE)

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 This report advises Committee on the outcome of Care Inspectorate's inspection of services to protect children and young people in the Moray council area which was carried out in January 2012.
- 1.2 A copy of the report was placed on the Members' Portal following the publication of the report. The report can also be found on Care Inspectorate's website:-
http://www.scswis.com/index.php?option=com_docman&task=cat_view&gid=494&Itemid=716.
- 1.3 This report is submitted to the Committee in terms Section J(16) of the Council's Administrative Scheme in relation to reviewing current performance information for all services.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 **The Committee is asked to consider the outcome of the Joint Inspection of Services to Protection Children and Young People in Moray.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The original inspection of Joint Services for Protecting Children in Moray (CP1) took place between June and September 2008, HMle published its report on 12 February 2009.
- 3.2 HMle highlighted six improvement points for action:
 - Ensure that assessments of risk are rigorous and appropriate legal measures are used, when necessary, for children in need of protection.
 - Fully implement agreements and guidance to ensure the effective sharing of information.
 - Introduce inter-agency discussions to manage effectively the investigation of suspected child abuse.
 - Improve assessment, planning and decision-making for children whose names are on the CPR.
 - Improve the involvement of children in decision-making about their lives and consult them on the development of services to protect children; and
 - Improve the effectiveness of the NHS Protecting Children Group, the NESCPG and the MCOG in protecting children and meeting their needs.
- 3.3 HMle returned to Moray for an interim follow-through inspection in June 2009, and the subsequent report was published on 1st October 2009. At this time HMle noted that "*Overall, encouraging progress has been made in a short time in tackling concerns raised in the initial inspection report.*" and that "*There were early signs of an increasing focus on the quality of children's*

involvement with child protection services and on improving outcomes for vulnerable families.”

- 3.4 The final part of the inspection was carried out in June 2010 when HMle returned to conduct the joint follow-through inspection. This inspection concentrated on progress made against the original six points for action and their report was published on 30th September 2010. The report confirmed that the progress identified in June 2009 had continued and concluded that *“Overall, good progress had been made in responding to the main points for action in the original inspection report in February 2009. Services, individually and collectively, had taken forward improvements in important areas, including the use of appropriate legal measures; information-sharing between paediatricians, social work and police; risk assessment and planning at child protection meetings; and the involvement of individual children in decision-making.”*
- 3.5 The publication of that report brought to an end the first round of joint services inspections of services to protect children in Moray.
- 3.6 The second round of national joint services inspections saw an inspection on Moray in January 2012. This inspection had more of an emphasis of self evaluation and considered changes that had occurred in Moray since CP1 driven by the Joint Child Protection Action Plan.
- 3.7 The inspection report was published in May 2012 and summarised the improvements made as follows:-

‘Chief Officers and senior managers from across services have shown they are committed to improving services and protecting vulnerable children. Key priorities set out in the Integrated Service Plan for children and young people in Moray have been realised. The Moray Child Protection Sub Committee working groups are helping drive forward identified improvements across services. A wide range of management information is gathered to help measure improvement and analyse trends across Grampian and with similar local authority areas.

The number of notable improvements to key processes have been underpinned by high quality training. Staff are clearly working more effectively in partnership with others and more confident in key areas of their work to keep children safe. Helpfully when improvements are made to child protection processes, managers continually monitor their use to ensure they are working effectively.

Staff are now beginning to see the benefits of reviewing their own work and challenge themselves and others to take action to implement necessary improvements. Chief Officers and senior managers are aware there is more they still need to achieve. Very good progress has been made in all of the main points for action identified as needing improvement at the first inspection of services to protect children. Services should continue to take forward planned improvements ensuring there is a strong focus on improving children’s well-being’.

- 3.8 In respect of the quality indicators that underpinned the inspection the following evaluations were given:-

Children are listened to and respected	good
Children are helped to keep safe	satisfactory
Response to immediate concerns	good
Meeting needs and reducing long term harm	satisfactory

- 3.9 Two other evaluations were given:-

Self-evaluation	satisfactory
Improvements in performance	very good

- 3.10 The definitions for the evaluations word scale are contained within the Care Inspectorate report.
- 3.11 The next steps to be taken by the Moray Child Protection Sub Committee are to consider the inspection findings in depth and to update the Joint Child Protection Action Plan and so continue the improvements made to services in Moray.
- 3.12 The inspectors, along with services in Moray, agreed three areas for improvement and work is being carried out in the meantime to address these areas as follows:

‘Develop joint initial assessments to support effective early help to children and families.’

- The ‘Named Person Protocol’ has been implemented in Moray and support is ongoing to embed the process.
- An agreed protocol has been developed and disseminated in respect of the role of multi-agency meetings.
- Computer Based Training on the Local Integrated Assessment and Planning Process in Moray has been developed and is now widely available for all staff.

‘Continue to improve the quality of assessments with a particular focus on identifying and meeting the children’s longer-term needs.’

- A Training Needs Analysis is currently being undertaken by the Social Work Training Team to assess what need there may be for report writing skills and at what level this should be delivered.
- The GIRFEC Development Officer is undertaking a review of Child’s Plans including an audit and evaluation of completed assessments.
- The Child Protection Performance Improvement Officer is facilitating a review of the risk assessment and management procedures.
- The Neglect and Substance Misuse training continues to be delivered and well attended.

- A conference highlighting the impact of neglect is being planned for Spring 2013.

‘Strengthen approaches to joint self-evaluation, ensuring a clearer focus on improved outcomes for children.’

- Members of the Self-evaluation and Continuous Improvement Group (SECI) of the Sub Committee are meeting with Moray’s link inspector and lead inspector in July 2012.
- The future action and development plan will be established around the ‘Well-being Indicators’ for children, and have an outcome based focus.
- The SECI Group are collating a range of materials and tools for future use eg IRISS Leading for Outcomes toolkit.
- The pan Grampian GIRFEC Group are to use the National GIRFEC group’s maturity model to evaluate the implementation of ‘Named Person’ arrangements across the Grampian area to date.

3.13 It is perhaps worth noting that a letter has been received from the Minister for Children & Young People regarding the inspection. The letter notes:-

‘...the Care Inspectorate have seen very good improvement in performance and have identified key strengths that are making a difference to children and families in Moray. In particular the Care Inspectorate highlight that children and families are benefitting from a much improved, more effective and better coordinated immediate response to initial concerns.

I am also pleased to see that the Care Inspectorate have identified two examples of good practice that are making a difference to children and families in Moray. I am particularly impressed by the partnership approach between services which is helping to reduce risks to children affected by parental substance misuse.’

4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

(a) Single Outcome Agreement/ Service Improvement Plan

- (i) National Outcome 15 – our public services are high quality, continually improving, efficient and responsive to local people’s needs;
- (ii) Service Improvement Plan 4.1 – Improving key delivery processes;
- (iii) Service Improvement Pan 4.2 – Ensure children are safe and their needs met;
- (iv) Service Improvement Plan 4.5 – Increase our capacity for self-evaluation

(b) Policy and Legal

There are no legal or policy implications.

(c) Financial Implications

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

(d) Risk Implications

There are no risk implications associated with this report.

(e) Staffing Implications

There are no staffing implications associated with this report.

(f) Property

There are no property implications associated with this report.

(g) Equalities

There are no equality implications associated with this report.

(h) Consultations

Margaret Forrest, Legal Services Manager (Litigation & Licensing) has been consulted in the preparation of this report and is in agreement with the content relating to her areas of responsibility.

5. CONCLUSION

5.1 This report advises Committee on the outcome of the Care Inspectorate's inspection of child protection services in Moray (CP2).

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Background Papers: with author

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