

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Public Protection Committee
DATE	4th December 2019
EXEMPT	No
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	Aberdeen City Joint Inspection Action Plan
REPORT NUMBER	OPE/19/444
DIRECTOR	Rob Polkinghorne
CHIEF OFFICER	Graeme Simpson
REPORT AUTHOR	Alison McAlpine
TERMS OF REFERENCE	1.1.1; 1.1.3

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

At its last meeting the Public Protection Committee (10.10.19) noted the report on the **Joint Inspection of Services for Children and Young People in need of Care and Protection in Aberdeen City**, published 3 September 2019 and requested an updated report in relation to the actions submitted to the Care Inspectorate in response to this.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee:

- 2.1 note this report
- 2.2 note the action plan attached - Appendix A
- 2.3 instructs Graeme Simpson, Chief Officer, to provide a service update on progress made on the Action Plan Inspection Report, to the Public Protection Committee by October 2020.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 A report on the Joint Inspection of Services for Children and Young People in need for Care and Protection in Aberdeen City was presented to the Public Protection Committee on 10 October 2019.

- 3.2** In response to the published report the Community Planning Partnership was required to submit an action plan to address the identified areas for improvement. The action plan was approved by the Chief Officer Group on 12th October 2019 and was endorsed by the Care Inspectorate and is attached as Appendix A, for committee's information and assurance.
- 3.3** Many of the areas of improvement cited by the Care Inspectorate had already been identified by the Community Planning Partnership within existing strategic planning documents (the LOIP, the Child Protection Improvement Plan and the Corporate Parenting Action Plan), a fact that is recognised within the Care Inspectorate's Report.
- 3.4** The action plan lays out the identified areas for multi-agency improvement, is the shared responsibility of the partnership and quarterly progress reports will be provided to the Chief Officer Group and the Care Inspectorate.
- 3.5** The action plan will last for one year and the Care Inspectorate fully recognise that delivery of some of the areas of improvement will be part of longer-term improvement work for the partnership.
- 3.6** Due to the positive inspection report, the Care Inspectorate are unlikely to return for a follow up inspection for three years. Committee will be updated as to progress on the implementation of the action plan by way of a service update in 12 months time.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1** There are no financial implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1** The Care Inspectorate are responsible for the scrutiny of children's services as set out in the Public Services Reform (Scotland) Act 2010, and therefore Aberdeen City Council in conjunction with the partnership fulfils its statutory responsibilities by participating in Inspection activity.

6. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

Category	Risk	Low (L) Medium (M) High (H)	Mitigation
Financial	Officer time will not be dedicated to the progression of inspection findings.	L	The implications of Inspection findings are commensurate with the ongoing learning and development approaches already embedded in child care and protection work

			across the city on a multi-agency basis.
Legal	Aberdeen City Council has statutory responsibilities to children, young people and their families which if we failed to adhere to would render us in breach of these.	L	This Inspection Report has evaluated services for children and young people in Aberdeen as good in all four focus areas. They conclude that they have confidence in our continual improvement and scope to address the areas requiring improvement.
Employee	Officer time is not afforded to retain current standards of practice and to progress areas for development.	L	The multi-agency nature of work to support children, young people and their families already relies on a collaborative approach where continual improvement and learning has been embedded. This work is shaped via the Chief Officer's Group, and the strategic plans in place, in line with stretch aims contained in the LOIP.
Customer	Required improvements and areas for development in practice are not actioned.	L	<p>Actions in line with Inspection Findings had already been identified within Aberdeen City's self evaluation hence work to make improvement is already underway.</p> <p>Children, young people and their families in Aberdeen can be assured that services in Aberdeen City are subject to continual quality assurance, in line with the Child Protection Improvement Programme, the Corporate Parenting Strategy, in line with this years' refreshed LOIP.</p>
Environment	Quality of care establishments for	L	The culture and ethos afforded within our

	<p>children who are required to be accommodated away from their families might become compromised.</p> <p>Working environments may become compromised for staff and for children, young people and their families.</p>		<p>residential establishments has been recognised as positive as was intervention with children, young people and their families due to embedding of strength-based practice and our relational approaches, within the Inspection Report.</p>
Technology	<p>If we do not continue to progress our use of advances in technology we will fail to sustain our improvements.</p>	L	<p>Use of improved data collation was recognised within the Inspection Report. We are collaborating across the partnership as well as using Microsoft cloud to mitigate against this risk.</p>
Reputational	<p>Findings of inspection reports in relation to Child Care and Protection can bring significant media interest and scrutiny of services delivered to children and young people.</p>	L	<p>The public can be assured by the fact that this inspection report has graded child care and protection services as 'good' across all areas, showing marked improvement since the period of the last inspection carried out in 2015.</p> <p>Aberdeen City Council ensures compliance with action plans following inspection findings, as well as with legal requirements, national standards and guidance; partners respond to self and external scrutiny; and identified areas for improvement are addressed.</p>

7. OUTCOMES

Local Outcome Improvement Plan Themes	
	Impact of Report
Prosperous Economy	No significant impact.
Prosperous People	<p>This inspection report acknowledges the role that the Chief Officer Group and the Child Protection Committee play in supporting and assuring that the multi-agency partnership in Aberdeen City delivers on the outcomes of the LOIP – Prosperous People – Children are our Future and that they have the ‘best start in life,’ they are ‘safe and responsible’ and that they are ‘protected from harm.’</p> <p>Children who are protected from threats to their health, safety and economic wellbeing are more likely to prosper than those who are not.</p>
Prosperous Place	Recognition has been given to the benefits to maximising scope for children to remain within their own communities and work to this effect is recognised in the Inspection Report.

Design Principles of Target Operating Model	
	Impact of Report
Customer Service Design	The service is in process of redesigning in line with Target Operating Model. Findings of the inspection report will be taken into consideration.
Organisational Design	The service is in the process of redesigning in line with Target Operating Model. Findings of the Inspection Report will be taken into consideration.
Governance	<p>Appropriate oversight of services delivering public protection provides assurance to both the organisation and the public in terms of meeting the council’s statutory duties and contributes to compliance with agreed standards.</p> <p>The partnership’s joint action plan activity will be supported via the Corporate Parenting Strategy and the Child Protection Committee under the endorsement of the Chief Officers’ Group.</p>

Workforce	Through Aberdeen City's Performance and Quality Assurance Sub Committee to the Child Protection Committee, a shared learning approach is adopted, to ensure staff across the partnership are appropriately supported via workshops and training events to understand the range and complexity of child care and protection issues both locally and nationally and this is recognised within the Care Inspectorate Report.
Process Design	n/a
Technology	We will continue to utilise emerging technology, such as the Mind of My Own app, a means of gathering views of young people through a medium and at a time most suitable to their needs, in order to improve quality and efficiency of services.
Partnerships and Alliances	The scope of the inspection spanned all services to children and their families within Aberdeen City, and hence the partnership must acknowledge the strengths identified as well as ensuring compliance with identified areas for improvement.

8. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Equality & Human Rights Impact Assessment	Positive impact as a result of Action Plan, and impact assessment completed and sent to Equalities Team.
Data Protection Impact Assessment	Not required.
Duty of Due Regard / Fairer Scotland Duty	Not required.

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Aberdeen City Joint Inspection Report OPE 19/238 – submitted to PPC on 10.10.19

<https://committees.aberdeencity.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=622&MId=6689&Ver=4>

10. APPENDICES (if applicable)

Appendix A - Action Plan following Report of a joint inspection of services for children and young people in need of care and protection in Aberdeen City, October 2019.

11. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

Alison McAlpine
Lead Service Manager (acting)
amcalpine@aberdeencity.gov.uk
01224 264100