

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Council
DATE	25/06/14
DIRECTOR	Liz Taylor, Social Care and Wellbeing Gayle Gorman, Education Culture and Sport
TITLE OF REPORT	Joint Inspection of Services for Children and Young People in the Aberdeen City Community Planning Partnership Area
REPORT NUMBER:	SCW/14/19
CHECKLIST RECEIVED:	NO

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to inform the Council of the announcement on 7 May 2014 of the Joint Inspection of Services for Children and Young People in Aberdeen led by the Care Inspectorate.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that Council:
- i) Note the process of the Joint Inspection
 - ii) Request that a briefing to elected members take place
 - iii) Instruct the Chief Executive to bring a report to Council setting out progress and recommendations from the scrutiny process.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 Whilst there are no direct financial implications from the inspection process there may be future financial implications arising from any inspection recommendations or requirements.

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are significant resource implications in preparing for and managing the scrutiny process. This is across partner agencies and all grades of staff including administrative and support staff through to chief officers.

5. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

- 5.1 The Care Inspectorate is the body responsible for the scrutiny of children's services in Scotland. This relates to all regulated services including residential homes and daycare services. The Care Inspectorate has set out a new process for scrutiny referred to as a Strategic Inspection.
- 5.2 The Strategic Inspection engages with the Community Planning Partnership to consider the strategic planning and leadership of children's services and how these arrangements impact on frontline service delivery and outcomes for children.
- 5.3 The Care Inspectorate notified the Council Chief Executive on 7 May 2014 of the inspection of children's services in Aberdeen. The notification set out the process and timescale for inspection.
- 5.4 The model of inspection has been designed to focus on outcomes for children and young people and to evaluate how well their lives are improving as a result of the service they are receiving.
- 5.5 The process includes:
1. Completion of a Pre Inspection Return (PIR)
 2. Care Inspectorate briefing to Chief Officers and Members of the Community Planning Partnership (10 June 2014)
 3. Staff Survey targeted at named persons and lead professionals
 4. Short notice or unannounced visits to regulated services
 5. Reviews (offsite) by the Care Inspectorate of; economic, demographic and statistical data, available documentation in particular the integrated Children's Services Plan, evidence and intelligence from the relevant scrutiny bodies, including the shared Risk Assessment process.
 6. On site activity by the Care Inspectorate, review of self evaluation material, engagement with those in leadership roles (including elected members), staff at all levels, children, young people and families and reports of significant case reviews (weeks beginning 15 and 22 September and 13 October 2014).
 7. Review of practice by reading case records of a statistically valid sample of children and engaging in children's networks of support. (This could be in the region of 100-120 children's records.)
The case record sample will consist of children;
 - On the Child Protection Register
 - Whose names were removed from the Child Protection Register in the last 12 months
 - Looked after at home
 - Looked after away from home

- Referred to the local authorities for voluntary measures of supervision by the Scottish Children's Reporter's administration
 - Young people entitled to through care and after care services
8. Interviews with children, young people, parents, carers, multi-agency groups of staff, single agency focus groups
 9. Observation of practice
 10. Focus groups of young people around particular issues/themes
 11. Site Visits
 12. Validation of best practice

5.6 Emerging findings will be shared throughout the process and will inform the proportionate phase of the scrutiny. The inspection and findings will be shared verbally with the Chief Officers and the Community Planning Partnership promptly following the completion of the proportionate phase (this meeting is scheduled for 23 October 2014)

5.7 Findings of the inspections are publicly reported within four weeks and will answer the following questions:

- How well are the lives of children, young people and their families improving?
- How well do we work together to improve the lives of children and families?
- How well do we lead and improve the quality of our work and achieve better outcomes for children and families?

5.8 As part of the public report the Care Inspection evaluates a number of key indicators on the following scale:

Excellent	Outstanding, Sector leading
Very Good	Major Strengths
Good	Important strengths with some areas for improvement
Adequate	Strengths just outweigh weaknesses
Weak	Important Weaknesses
Unsatisfactory	Major Weaknesses

5.9 The Care Inspectorate will request that a joint action plan is published within six weeks of the receipt of the record of inspection findings by the Community Planning Partnership detailing how it intends to make any improvements identified as a result of the inspection.

5.10 Community Planning Partners have agreed that the lead officer for Aberdeen's Inspection is Susan Devlin, Head of Children's Services, supported by Sheila Sansbury, Service Manager Early Years, Families and Vulnerable Learners as coordinator. The Head of Children's Services is chairing a multi agency coordinating group made up of all

the appropriate community planning partners to ensure a proactive, shared, planned approach to the Inspection.

6. IMPACT

- 6.1 The Inspection of Children's Services in Aberdeen will review and determine how the Community Planning Partnership is working together to deliver improved outcomes for children in the city.
- 6.2 Findings of previous inspections have been significant for Community Planning Partners and Citizens in Aberdeen

7. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

- 7.1 The inspection of children's services is a robust and rigorous process which sets out to accurately assess how well the needs of children's are being met. The Community Planning Partnership will be evaluated with strengths and areas of improvement identified.
- 7.2 The inspection will have a reputational impact on the council as one of the partners.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

9. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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