

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Full Council
DATE	4 March 2015
DIRECTOR	Gayle Gorman
TITLE OF REPORT	Joint Inspection of Children's Services
REPORT NUMBER	ECS/SCW/009
CHECKLIST COMPLETED	Yes

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To provide elected members with a summary of the outcome of Care Inspectorate's report on the Joint Inspection of Services for children and young people in the Aberdeen City Community Planning Partnership area.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

To note the outcome of the Care Inspectorate's report on the Joint Inspection of Services to children and young people.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications.

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

There are no other implications.

5. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The joint inspection commenced in June 2014 and concluded in December 2014, the final report is published on 4 March 2015. During the inspection, inspectors examined the files of 106 children; met with children, young people and their families and visited a number of services. In addition inspectors met with professionals from a range of agencies who work with and provide services to children, young people and their families.

5.2 Inspection Outcome

5.2.1 The inspection measures the performance of the services against a number of Quality Indicators using a 6 point scale. Excellent; Very Good; Good; Adequate; Weak and Unsatisfactory.

<i>How well are the lives of children and young people improving?</i>	
Improving the well-being of children and young people	Adequate
Impact on children and young people	Good
Impact on families	Good
<i>How well are partners working together to improve the lives of children, young people and families?</i>	
Providing help and support at an early stage	Good
Assessing and responding to risks and needs	Good
Planning for individual children	Good
Planning and improving services	Adequate
Participation of children, young people and families and other stakeholders	Good
<i>How good is the leadership and direction of services for children and young people?</i>	
Leadership of improvement and change	Adequate

5.2.2 These grades demonstrate notable progress and reflect positively on the efforts of staff from across a range of agencies. The inspectors within their report identified a number of strengths including:

"Inspectors are confident that the lives of many children and young people growing up in Aberdeen City are improving as a result of the services delivered to them".

"Many families, including very vulnerable families were benefitting from early support"

"Children and young people in need of protection were helped to keep safe and response to immediate concerns about their safety was now prompt and effective."

“Significant progress had been achieved in the implementation of a GIRFEC approach by developing a positive culture, better systems, clearer processes and an improved focus on outcomes.”

- 5.2.3 Within the report the inspectors identified a number of areas where further improvement was necessary. This included:

“Set ambitious and challenging targets to improve performance in reducing the inequalities “For Aberdeen’s Children”.

“Improve planning for individual children including making better use of chronologies to inform assessment and planning.”

“Ensure processes for joint planning of integrated children’s services are systematic, robust and include methodologies to measure the impact and outcomes for children and young people.”

5.3 Next Steps

- 5.3.1 The Community Planning Partnership will be required to provide the Care Inspectorate with a joint action plan which sets out how the Partnership proposes to address the areas of improvement identified by the inspectors within their report. The delivery of the action plan will be overseen by the Integrated Children’s Services Board.
- 5.3.2 Due to the noted progress inspectors have indicated that there will be no need for them to return to Aberdeen City out with the normal cycle of inspections. However the Care Inspectorate through the existing link arrangements will support and monitor the Partnership’s progress in taking forward the agreed action plan.

6. IMPACT

The Joint Inspection report reinforces the Council’s duty to provide effective services to children and young people that safeguard and protect their safety and wellbeing as well as ensuring all services are targeted towards reducing inequalities and improving outcomes. These expectations are consistent and fully aligned to the Council’s Single Outcome Agreement.

7. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

The Inspection Report is a public document. The report is essentially positive in terms of how the Council and other agencies deliver services to children and young people. However the report also identifies areas for improvement which may be picked up by the media.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

The full report is attached as an Appendix.

9. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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