

water ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Public Protection Committee
DATE	December 2020
EXEMPT	No
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	Final Progress Report on Joint Inspection of Services for Children and Young People in need of Care and Protection in Aberdeen City
REPORT NUMBER	OPE/20/224
DIRECTOR	Rob Polkinghorne
CHIEF OFFICER	Graeme Simpson
REPORT AUTHOR	Graeme Simpson
TERMS OF REFERENCE	1.1

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 A report on the outcome of the Joint Inspection of Services for Children and Young People in need of Care and Protection in Aberdeen City was presented to Committee in October 2019. Committee asked that an update report be brought back to Committee in October 2020 on delivery of the Inspections improvement plan.
- 1.2 Due to the impact of COVID-19 and the decision by the Care Inspectorate to cease inspection activity the submission of Aberdeen City's final report has been delayed until December 2020.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

To note the report submitted to the Care Inspectorate detailing progress made by the partnership since October 2019 on the identified areas of improvement highlighted in their inspection report dated September 2019.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Members will recall that Aberdeen City was subject to a Joint Inspection of Services for Children and Young People in need of Care and Protection from December 2018 to September 2019, when the final report was published. This was a multi-agency inspection involving all partners in Aberdeen City who deliver services to children and young people in need of care and protection.
- 3.2 The inspection was carried out utilising a new methodology which ensured that the views of child, young people and their parents were at the heart of the inspection. The level of engagement from children and young people and their parents was very positive and provides a strong evidence base.
- 3.2 The purpose of the Inspection was to answer 5 scrutiny questions
- i. How good is the partnership at recognising and responding when children and young people need protection?

- ii. How good is the partnership at helping children and young people who have experienced abuse and neglect stay safe, healthy and well and recover from their experiences?
- iii. How good is the partnership at maximising the wellbeing of children and young people who are looked after?
- iv. How good is the partnership at enabling care experienced young people to succeed in their transition to adulthood?
- v. How good is collaborative leadership?

3.3 In doing so the Care Inspectorate evaluated the partnership against four Quality Indicators:

Quality Indicator	Grade Awarded
Improvements in the safety, wellbeing and life chances of vulnerable children and young people	Good
Impact on children and young people	Good
Impact on families	Good
Leadership and direction	Good

The findings reflected very positively on the work of all staff across the partnership. As this was a new methodology it is not possible to fully benchmark these gradings with our comparative local authorities or national position. However, for the three Local Authority areas which had been inspected prior to Aberdeen City and those that have since, our gradings stand up very well.

- 3.4 The report highlighted significant strengths in the delivery of services as well as a few areas where they considered further improvement was required. The noted areas for improvement and development had already been identified by the partnership within its self-evaluation and within existing strategic plans (the LOIP, the Child Protection Improvement Plan and the Corporate Parenting Improvement Action Plan). This was recognised by the Care Inspectorate within their report.
- 3.5 Appendix 1 outlines the multi-agency Improvement Plan that was agreed with the Care Inspectorate post inspection and shared with Committee in December 2019. Progress on delivery of these areas is also recorded within this plan. While the impact of the COVID pandemic has been significant, it has not prevented work being undertaken to progress these areas of improvement. Indeed, in some areas the pandemic has enabled change at a greater scale than was anticipated i.e. the collation and analysis of multi-agency data.
- 3.6 The partnership is required to provide a progress report to the Care Inspectorate one year after the publication of the final Report. They full anticipate that a number of the areas of improvement would remain a focus for improvement beyond this timescale. However, members will note that there has been significant progress made on all aspects of the Improvement Plan.
- 3.7. As these improvement actions were already part of existing strategic plans then their progress will continue to be tracked and reported on via the various oversight forums predominantly, Children’s Services Board and the Child

Protection Committee and thereafter to the Community Planning Partnership and Aberdeen City's Chief Officers Group for Public Protection.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

6. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

Category	Risk	Low (L) Medium (M) High (H)	Mitigation
Strategic Risk	That the Scheme will have a limited impact on strategic priorities.	L	
Compliance	There are no compliance issues.	L	
Operational	Adjustment of systems and awareness of key staff.	L	
Financial	Long term investment of resources with reported benefits at a relatively small scale.	L	
Reputational	A failure of Aberdeen City Council to comply and deliver on the Improvement Plan would reflect negatively on the Council and the outcomes for children and young people.	L	
Environment / Climate	There are no environment/climate issues.	L	

7. OUTCOMES

<u>COUNCIL DELIVERY PLAN</u>	
	Impact of Report
Aberdeen City Council Policy Statement	Proposals within this report support the delivery of Policy Statement 7 – Commit to closing the attainment gap in education while working with partners in the city.
Aberdeen City Local Outcome Improvement Plan	
Prosperous Economy Stretch Outcomes	N/A
Prosperous People Stretch Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This report has a direct link to Stretch Outcomes 3, 4, 5, 6 and 8 of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan.
Prosperous Place Stretch Outcomes	N/A
Regional and City	N/A
UK and Scottish Legislative and Policy Programmes	Delivery of the recommendations of the Independent Care Review – The Promise published in February 2020 have a direct alignment to this report and delivery of the Improvement Plan.

8. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Impact Assessment	Not Required.
Data Protection Impact Assessment	Not Required.

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Report on Joint Inspection of Services for Children and Young People in need of Care and Protection presented to Public Protection Committee – October 2019

Report on the Action Plan following the Joint Inspection of Services for Children and Young People in need of Care and Protection presented to Public Protection Committee – December 2019.

10. APPENDICES

Action Plan following the Joint Inspection of Services for Children and Young People in need of Care and Protection September 2019

11. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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