
Report To: Health & Social Care Committee **Date:** 27th August 2009

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Subject: Social Work Services - Care Commission Inspection Reports
Throughcare Services, Adoption and Fostering Services

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 This report provides members with information about the first Scottish Commission for the Regulation of Care (Care Commission) graded inspections of the Council's Fostering Adoption and Throughcare Services undertaken for the year 2008-09.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 In April 2008 the Care Commission introduced a new system of inspection. This applies to all registered services in Scotland and for the first time introduced a numerical grading system. The inspection reports can be accessed through the following link: <http://www.carecommission.com/>
- 2.2 The Council's Adoption, Fostering and Throughcare Services were inspected under the new arrangements. All three services were graded as Very Good across all inspection areas.

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 Members are asked to note the content of the Care Commissions inspection reports and endorse the high standards of practice in the Council's Residential Child Care Units.

Robert Murphy
Acting Corporate Director Social Care

4.0 BACKGROUND

4.1 In April 2008 the Care Commission introduced a new inspection regime. Inspections were more thorough, took place over a longer period, used a new methodology and applied a numerical grading system. This new approach applies to all registered services in Scotland.

4.2 Each service is inspected against 3 themes. These are:

1. Quality of care and support
2. Quality of staffing
3. Quality of management and leadership

4.3 Services are then graded based on the following score:

6. Excellent
5. Very Good
4. Good
3. Adequate
2. Weak
1. Unsatisfactory

5.0 OUTCOME OF INSPECTION PROCESS

5.1 Throughcare Inspection 12/2/09. Throughcare Services were inspected in February and both Adoption and Fostering were inspected in March. The outcomes of these inspections are noted in the table below.

Units	Quality of Care & Support	Quality of Staffing	Quality of Management & Leadership
Adoption	5	5	5
Fostering	5	5	5
Throughcare	5	5	5

5.2 As can be seen from the above table the outcome of the above inspection is very positive. Full details of inspection outcomes across Scotland are not yet available however from the information available Inverclyde services are performing to a very good standard.

5.3 The provision of substitute care for children and young people within Fostering and Adoption placements and care leavers is a very stressful and demanding task and it is the professionalism, motivation and commitment of our Foster Carers, Adoption staff and managers that provides the high standard of care which attracts the very positive inspection reports.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Legal: The service has an ongoing responsibility to meet the requirements of the care commissions inspection and regulation.

6.2 Finance: There are no specific financial issues arising in respect of this report.

6.3 Personnel: There are no specific implications for Personnel Services.

6.4 Equalities: It is important to note that the inspection process sets requirements for the involvement of service users in service design and development and in the inspection process itself. In this context it is clear that issues of inclusion are reflected in the service provided to children and their families. Over and above this there is an ethos of equality which permeates the care provided.

7.0 CONSULTATION

7.1 The service has had an established participation strategy that reflects the involvement of children, parents, Foster Carers, Adopters, staff and stakeholders in developing and delivering Children's Services.