
Report To: Health & Social Care Committee **Date:** 26 August 2010

Report By: Robert Murphy
Corporate Director
Inverclyde Community Health & Care Partnership **Report No:**
SW/34/10/LW/JH

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Subject: HMle Inspection of Services to Protect Children

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 This report is to update Members about the arrangements for the HMle Inspection of Services to Protect Children which will take place in October and November of this year

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 Inverclyde has been asked to pilot a combined inspection between HMle who and the Care Commission. This will involve our Fostering and Adoptions Services being inspected alongside the HMle inspection of multi-agency services relating to child protection.
- 2.2 HMle will be undertaking their second round of inspections of Services to Protect Children across all Services including those provided by the local authority, police and health in Inverclyde starting in October 2010. Members will recall that in 2008 when this inspection last took place in Inverclyde, we received a very positive report.

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 Members are asked to note the contents of this report.

Robert Murphy
Corporate Director
Inverclyde Community Health & Care
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4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The HMle inspection considers the systems which are in place across all services for children to ensure that they are safeguarded and protected, including the universal services and targeted services.
- 4.2 Members know that the Care Commission inspect our Fostering Services and our Adoption Services on an annual basis and that last year, as previously we had a very positive inspection with grades of 5's which confirm very good services.
- 4.3 Members will also be aware that following the Crerar Report which considered the various inspection bodies and the scope of their work, it is planned to rationalise such processes from April 2011. It was recognised that the range of inspections created a significant burden on local authorities in terms of the work required to resource them and that a more proportionate approach was required which would still ensure proper scrutiny and accountability but would reduce the workload for services.
- 4.4 As part of this rationalisation, Inverclyde has been asked if it would be willing to participate in the second of a series of pilots whereby the annual inspections carried out by the Care Commission of our Fostering and our Adoption Services would be incorporated into our HMle inspection. This will mean that these services will not be graded as they have been previously by the Care Commission as the inspection will not be as intensive as it usually is and instead of the usual report, a letter will be issued detailing any recommendations or requirements and also posted on the Care Commission website. After due reflection Social Work Services have agreed to be part of this pilot.

5.0 PROPOSALS

- 5.1 It is proposed that members note and endorse the change in the arrangements for the HMle Inspection of services to protection children to incorporate the Care Commission inspection of Fostering and Adoption Services.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Legal: None
- 6.2 Finance:

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Year	Proposed Spend this Report	Virement From	Other Comments
N/A					

- 6.3 Personnel: None
- 6.4 Equalities: None

7.0 CONSULTATION

- 7.1 Consultation has been carried out with the appropriate staff who are in support of the changes in arrangements

8.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

8.1 None

