

Report To: Health & Social Care Committee
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Report No: SW/19/2017/SMcA

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Subject: Joint Inspection of Children's Services

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this paper is to advise members of the preparation taking place in relation to the pending Joint Inspection of Children's Services

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 It is anticipated that Inverclyde will shortly receive notification of a Joint Inspection of Children's Services
- 2.2 The focus of the inspection will be the arrangements in place by Community Planning Partners for the provision of services to all children in Inverclyde. However, the inspection will also have a focus on services to the most vulnerable children in Inverclyde.
- 2.3 The inspection will be led by the Care Inspectorate and will include representatives from Education Scotland, Health Improvement Scotland, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary for Scotland, lay inspectors and young inspectors.
- 2.4 Preparation for activity in relation to the inspection is detailed in the narrative of the report.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The inspection process requires the direct involvement of members and the recommendations to members from this report are:
- To note the content of the report
 - To familiarise themselves with the inspection preparation activity
 - To attend members briefings
 - To support the inspection process

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4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 At the request of Scottish Ministers the Care Inspectorate is leading joint inspection of children's services for children and young people across Scotland
- 4.2 To date 28 of 32 community planning partnership areas have been inspected. It is anticipated that Inverclyde will receive notification of inspection imminently. The inspection cycle for Scotland will conclude by end December 2017
- 4.3 The focus of inspection is services provided to children in the community planning partnership area. The inspection will be concerned to examine the impact of services on the lives of all children but will also have a focus on the most vulnerable children in the community.
- 4.4 A suite of quality indicators are used to inform the inspection. These are based on evidence informed quality assurance models. The inspection handbook 2016/17 is available to read at
<http://www.careinspectorate.com/images/documents/2704/Joint%20Inspection%20of%20Children%E2%80%99s%20Services%20handbook%20-%20October%202016.pdf>
- 4.5 The inspection team consists of inspectors from the Care Inspectorate (Health and Social Work) Education Scotland, Healthcare Improvement Scotland and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary for Scotland. Associate inspectors, clinical partners, lay inspectors and volunteer young people contribute to a strategic assessment team. It is anticipated that the team will consist of 15-20 members (excluding young people)
- 4.6 The inspection footprint takes place over 35 weeks commencing with notification and continues to publication of the inspection report.
- 4.7 Key stages in the pre-assessment process are as follows:
- Preparation which includes submission of a pre-inspection return, preparation of a validated self-evaluation against specified quality indicators including position statements in relation to the following areas:
 - Getting it Right for Every Child
 - Child Sexual Exploitation
 - Corporate Parenting
 - Submission of good practice examples that the community planning partnership would want to showcase.
 - Completion and submission of a staff survey.
 - Compilation of outcomes evidence in support of all submissions to the care Inspectorate.
- 4.8 In addition to the pre-inspection activity outlined above, the inspection will follow a number of stages and includes the following:
- Initial scoping and detailed analysis by the care inspectorate of all materials submitted by the community planning partnership which will take place off site.
 - Engagement with the CPP to refine the scope of the inspection which will take place on site.

- Reviewing multi-agency partnership practice through case file reading (90-110 case files). This will be carried out on site.
- A final stage on site is entitled the “Proportionate phase”– where further enquiry, testing and triangulation of evidence takes place. This includes further detailed analysis of 20-30% of the case files sampled to include meeting with the child, parent and staff involved. Other focus groups and meetings will take place during this time.

4.9 At key points during the process, 5 high level meetings entitled professional discussions will take place. Each professional discussion has a particular focus and generally acts as the main partnership dialogue between community planning partners and inspectors.

4.10 The inspection process will conclude with the publication of a graded inspection report and action plan.

5.0 PERFORMANCE

5.1 The vast majority of previous and current inspection activity in Inverclyde has concluded that services are mainly in the very good category. These inspection outcomes are regularly reported to the Health & Social Care Committee.

5.2 The work of the Child Protection Committee is scrutinised by the Chief Officers Group. The Chief Officers Group is chaired by the Chief Executive of the Council and includes representative of the Chief Constable and the Chief Executive of NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde.

5.3 The annual report and business plan of the Child Protection Committee is submitted to members for scrutiny.

5.4 The community planning partnership scrutinises the work of the strategic children’s service planning group which is SOA6, “Best Start in Life”.

5.5 Wider performance and quality assurance information is contained in regular performance reports to committee.

5.6 A detailed inspection preparation plan has been developed. This plan is updated on a week by week basis. An example of this plan is available to view @

<http://www.careinspectorate.com/images/documents/2704/Joint%20Inspection%20of%20Children%E2%80%99s%20Services%20handbook%20-%20October%202016.pdf>

5.7 The above plan involves preparation activity for the following key areas:-

- Completion of the self-evaluation
- Preparation of agencies case files for case file reading
- Preparation of staff for participation in focus groups, team around the child meetings and completion of the staff survey
- Preparation of children, young people and families to engage in the inspection process
- Preparation of members and officers for participation in focus groups, one to one interviews and involvement in the profession discussions.

6.0 PROPOSALS

- 6.1 Preparation for inspection across a broad range of areas is underway and it is proposed that this continues.
- 6.2 Completed self-evaluation, position statement and good practice examples will be circulated to members by means of inspection briefings.
- 6.3 Members will be updated as the inspection process develops.

7.0 IMPLICATIONS

Finance

- 7.1 There are no specific financial implications from this report. All activity will be contained within existing budgets.
- 7.2 It should be noted that activity to support inspection is resource intensive.
- 7.3 Arrangements will be required to be made to accommodate the 15-20 inspectors in Inverclyde during the process. This will be met within existing resources.

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report £000	Virement From	Other Comments
N/A					

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact £000	Virement From (If Applicable)	Other Comments
N/A					

Legal

- 7.4 N/A

Human Resources

- 7.5 N/A

Equalities

- 7.6 Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out?

	YES (see attached appendix)
√	NO – This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a change to an existing policy, function or strategy. Therefore, no Equality Impact Assessment is required.

Repopulation

7.7 There are no repopulation issues within this report.

8.0 CONSULTATION

8.1 N/A

9.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

9.1 N/A