

Report

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| Report to: | Executive Committee |
| Date of Meeting: | 25 September 2019 |
| Report by: | Director, Health and Social Care, and Executive Executive Director (Education Resources) |

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| Subject: | Children's Services Inspection 2019/2020 |
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ♦ advise the Committee of the Care Inspectorate's intention to inspect South Lanarkshire Children's Services in Autumn 2019

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that the content of the report be noted.

3. Background

- 3.1. Under Section 115 of the Public Services Reform (Scotland) Act 2010, the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) has received notification of a Joint Inspection of Services for Children and Young People in need of care and protection in the South Lanarkshire CPP area. The inspection will include 10 days on site in South Lanarkshire in the weeks beginning 28 October 2019 and 2 December 2019.
- 3.2. In 2017 the Scottish Government's Child Protection Improvement Programme (CPIP) set out a vision for a child protection system in Scotland that places the wellbeing of children at the heart of everything it does. As part of this review, Scottish Ministers asked the Care Inspectorate to work with scrutiny partners to develop a revised model of inspection that takes a more focused look at children and young people in need of care and protection.
- 3.3. The inspection will take account of the experiences and outcomes of children and young people in need of protection and those who are subject to corporate parenting responsibilities, including those in continuing care.
- 3.4. The Inspection Team will be made up of approximately 12 Inspectors with Gill Pritchard, Lead Inspector, and Andrew Gillies, Depute Lead Inspector (Care Inspectorate), as well as inspectors from Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary Scotland (HMICS), Health Improvement Scotland (HIS), Education Scotland, as well as Associate Inspectors, a Participation Lead and Lived Experience Young Inspectors who are Care Experienced.

- 3.5. South Lanarkshire's Children's Services Partnership has now been inspected on 3 occasions. The first 2 were Child Protection Inspections commonly known as CP1 (2008) and CP2 (2010) and the third was a Joint Inspection of Services for Children and Young People (2015).
- 3.6. The last inspection in 2015 focussed on 7 Quality Indicators (QI's) and the grades for those are listed in Appendix 1.
- 3.7. With the introduction of the Children and Young Peoples (Scotland) Act 2014, the Scottish Government has furthered its ambition for "Scotland to be the best place to grow up in by putting children and young people at the heart of the planning and services and ensuring their rights are respected across the public sector".
- 3.8. The provisions of the Act are designed to place children and young people at the heart of the way services are planned and delivered. These in turn compliment a number of the Scottish Governments wider policy intentions such as the implementation of Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) and a preventative approach and more effective collaboration between services.
- 3.9. It is within this context of significant legislative change and the subsequent CPIP and national care review that the Care Inspectorate has reviewed and updated its methodology to enable self-evaluation and inspection actively to focus on children in need of care and protection.
- 3.10. This report sets out the current position following notification to the Partnership Board of the inspection on 16 August 2019.

4. Current Position

- 4.1. In the revised model for the joint inspection of services for children and young people in need of care and protection, the Care Inspectorate pose 5 inspection specific questions:-
 1. how good is the Partnership at recognising and responding when children and young people need protection?
 2. 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?
 3. how good is the Partnership at maximising the wellbeing of children and young people who are looked after?
 4. how good is the Partnership at enabling care experienced young people to succeed in their transition to adulthood?
 5. how good is collaborative leadership?
- 4.2. The Partnership has been formally notified by the Care Inspectorate of their plans for inspection and this will include 10 days on site in the area in the weeks beginning 28 October 2019 and 2 December 2019.
- 4.3. An Inspection Preparation Group has been established from all relevant partners and the leads in each agency will keep you informed of developments.
- 4.4. A series of staff briefings are being delivered to appraise the Children's Services workforce of the forthcoming inspection, with sessions available in all four localities.

4.5. As part of the focus on engagement there will be a series of surveys put in place to scope stakeholder's experiences. It is expected that all surveys will be completed by 18 November 2019. These are as follows:-

- ◆ a staff survey which will be distributed to staff working with children and young people in need of care and protection
- ◆ a children and young people's survey
- ◆ a parent survey

4.6. **Participation and Engagement**

4.6.1. During this inspection there will be a greater focus on listening to the experiences of children, young people and their parents/carers. The Inspection Team has a dedicated inspector with a lead responsibility for participation. This is a new role. The CPP has been asked to identify a Lead Officer for participation and this has been identified as Janet Neill (Social Work Resources). The Education link will be Frank Thomson.

4.6.2. Surveys will be issued to staff, parents/carers and children and young people. Completion of surveys is voluntary but the Partnership will actively promote that these are completed. There will also be a competition for children and young people to design the cover of the Inspection Report.

4.7. **Inspection Activity**

| Date | Activity |
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| 12 August | Introductory Meeting |
| 27 August | MEETING 1 Care Inspectorate Briefing To share information re: methodology and process of inspection |
| 27 August 28 August 30 August 03 September 06 September | Inspection Briefings To share information re: Children's Services Partnership and inspection process |
| 28 August – 27 September | Staff Survey |
| 29 August | Participation meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To go into further detail about the participation and engagement elements of the inspection and identify the best ways for inspection team to engage with children/young people and parents/carers |

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| 29 August | Joint self-evaluation session two hour session to support the Partnership in its preparation of the joint self-evaluation statement |
| 02 September – 18 November | Parent/carers survey |
| 20 September | Pre-inspection Return (PIR) due <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key Personnel • Partnership structures • Case sample |
| 27 September | Joint self-evaluation statement due |
| 07 October | Name, role and contact details of Local File Readers (six) plus two reserve names to Care Inspectorate |
| 14 October | MEETING 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To discuss initial high level reflections on the joint self-evaluation (i.e. where the CI saw strong evidence in the JSE, any gaps in evidence, key points) On-site – week 1 |
| 17 October | File reading training |
| 28 – 30 October | File reading <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead Professional files (mainly) For children on child protection register (or deregistered in previous 12 months) they will read core files from Health, Education (e.g. Pastoral and CP notes), Police and SCRA |
| 31 October – 01 November | Engagement with children/young people and parents/carers |
| 13 November | MEETING 3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Findings from case file reading • Findings from staff survey • Emerging findings from initial engagement with children/young people and parents/carers (not survey) • Discuss best sources of evidence to answer any uncertainties |
| 02 December (on site Week 2) | Focus groups and interviews <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Themes will depend on emergent findings |

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| 15 January 2020 | MEETING 4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High level findings (areas of strength, for improvement, good practice) No evaluations given at this stage |
| 25 February 2020 | Draft report issued to partnership |
| 2 March 2020 | MEETING 5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion of draft report, key messages and evaluations • Discussion of opportunity to put forward any challenges |
| 28 April 2020 | FINAL REPORT ISSUED (embargoed report one week before) |

From the cases detailed in the pre-inspection return, a random, representative sample of cases will be generated (110 – 120 cases).

4.8. **Reporting Timeframe**

As detailed above, a discussion of the draft report, key messages and evaluations will take place at a meeting with key, senior members of the CPP on Monday 2 March 2020. These are senior individuals with responsibility for child protection and looked after children and young people. This is the opportunity for the Partnership to present any challenges to the findings at that stage.

4.9. The final report will be issued on Tuesday 28 April 2020.

5. **Employee Implications**

5.1. A number of employees will be aligned to duties associated with the Inspection across the Partnership, with administration support being provided by Social Work Resources.

6. **Financial Implications**

6.1. The financial implications for this inspection will be covered from within existing budgets.

7. **Other Implications**

7.1. There are risks associated with any external scrutiny process, particularly one of this scale across Council Resources and including other partner agencies of NHS Lanarkshire, Police Scotland and SCRA (Scottish Children's Reporters Administration).

7.2. The coordination and planning of this inspection will create other issues. Staff will be required to participate in briefing sessions and focus groups, as well as children and young people and their families/carers to engage with the process.

8. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 8.1. There is no requirement to undertake an equality impact assessment regarding the content of this report.
- 8.2. As identified at 7.2 there will be a requirement to engage and involve staff, children and young people their families and carers as part of this inspection process.

Val de Souza
Director, Health and Social Care

Tony McDaid
Executive Director (Education Resources)

12 September 2019

Link(s) to Council Values/Ambitions/Objectives

- ◆ achieve results through leadership, good governance and organisational effectiveness
- ◆ deliver better health and social care outcomes for all
- ◆ protect vulnerable children, young people and adults

Previous References

- ◆ None

List of Background Papers

- ◆ None

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

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Children's Services Inspection Grades 2015-16

| What key outcomes have we achieved? | | Inspection Grades 2015-16 |
|---|--|------------------------------|
| 1 | Key performance outcomes | |
| 1.1 | Improving the well-being of children and young people | Good |
| How well do we meet the needs of our stakeholders? | | |
| 2 | Impact on children young people and families | |
| 2.1 | Impact on children and young people | Good |
| 2.2 | Impact on families | Good |
| 3 | Impact on Staff | |
| 3.1 | Impact on Staff | |
| 4 | Impact on the community | |
| 4.1 | Impact on the community | |
| How good is our delivery of service for children young people and families | | |
| 5 | Delivery of Key Processes | |
| 5.1 | Providing help and support at an early age | Adequate |
| 5.2 | Assisting and responding to risk and need | Adequate |
| 5.3 | Planning for individual children | Adequate |
| 5.4 | Involving individual children, young people and families | |
| How good is our operational Management | | |
| 6 | Policy, service and development and Planning | |
| 6.1 | Policies, procedures and legal measures | |
| 6.2 | Planning and Improving Services | Adequate |
| 6.3 | Participation of children, young people, families and other stakeholders | Very Good |
| 6.4 | Performance Management and Quality Assurance | |
| 7 | Management and Support of Staff | |
| 7.1 | Recruitment, Deployment and joint working | |
| 7.2 | Staff training development and support | |
| 8 | Partnership and resources | |
| 8.1 | Management of resources | |
| 8.2 | Commissioning arrangements | |
| 8.3 | Securing improvement through self- evaluation | |
| How good is our leadership | | |
| 9 | Leadership and Direction | |
| 9.1 | Visions, values and aims | |
| 9.2 | Leadership of strategy and direction | |
| 9.3 | Leadership of People | |
| 9.4 | Leadership of improvement and change | Good |