



**REPORT TO: EDUCATION, COMMUNITIES AND ORGANISATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE 3 FEBRUARY 2021**

**SUBJECT: INFORMATION REPORT: INSPECTION OF MORAY ADOPTION
SERVICE-UPDATE**

BY: CHIEF OFFICER HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE MORAY

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise Committee of the progress made by the adoption service in the year since 4 MARCH 2020, which is when Committee was reported to, following the inspection of the service by the Care Inspectorate on 23 October 2019.
- 1.2 This report is submitted to the Education, Communities and Organisational Development Committee following a decision of Moray Council on 17 June 2020 to agree a simplified committee structure as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. In the case of this committee the combining of the delegated responsibilities of Children and Young People Services, Governance, Strategy and Performance, (para 9 of the minute refers).

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Moray Adoption Service provides an adoption service for children and young people assessed as being in need of permanent care away from their birth family and the service recruits and supports adoptive families to provide adoptive placements.
- 2.2 The aims of the service include the provision of a child centred approach which promotes the development, learning and achievement of each individual; quality, safe care in a family setting.
- 2.3 The service is registered with the Care Inspectorate.
- 2.4 At October 2019 the grading from inspection of the Adoption Service was: -

- Quality of Care and Support 3 – Adequate*
- Quality of Staffing not assessed
- Quality of Management and Leadership 3 – Adequate

*Inspectors report on these quality indicators using a six point scale.

2.5 There were 0 requirements and 4 recommendations: -

Recommendations

- (II) The service should adopt a strategic approach to providing post adoption support services.
- (III) The service should adopt a more strategic approach to participation.
- (IV) The agency should address staff relationships between and within teams to ensure good quality support for children and their families.
- (V) The agency should develop a service improvement plan based on user and staff feedback and performance reporting.

The full inspection report from October 2019 can be viewed using the link – <https://www.careinspectorate.com/berengCareservices/html/reports/getPdfBlob.php?id=305680>

2.6 The improvement action plan, which was submitted to the Care Inspectorate, has been updated in terms of progress made within the service. This is attached at APPENDIX 1. Consistent with previous reporting, progress is monitored through the Practice Governance Board (PGB), which is a board convened by the Chief Social Work Officer to consider quality performance and risk in all social work activities focusing on culture, systems, practice, performance, vision and leadership. Action points marked red have been assessed to ensure they do not impact on the immediate delivery of the service and will be carried forward to 2021.

2.7 It had been expected that a progress review would have been completed by the Care Inspectorate prior to now, on the basis of the grades that had been awarded following inspection in October 2019, this progress review has not happened, presumably because of the impact of COVID 19. This report and update on actions is based on self-assessment from within the service.

3. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

(a) Moray 2026: A Plan for the Future and 10 Year Plan (Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP))

This area of activity links to the Moray 2026 plan – More ambitious and confident children and young people able to fulfil their potential.

And within the Moray – 10 year Plan – LOIP. - Building a better future for our children and young people in Moray.

The outcomes being that children and young people thrive; have a voice; learn; can get about; have a home; feel secure, healthy, nurtured to be supported to reach their full potential.

(b) Policy and Legal

There are no direct policy or legal implications associated with this report.

(c) Financial implications

There are no specific financial implications associated with this report.

(d) Risk Implications

There are no specific risk implications associated with this report.

(e) Staffing Implications

There are no specific staffing implications associated with this report.

(f) Property

There are no specific property implications associated with this report.

(g) Equalities/Socio Economic Impact

The purpose of the report is to update elected members on progress and therefore no EIA is needed. However, the focus of service delivery is designed to meet the needs of children and young people in Moray who are our most vulnerable children who have a number of complex needs.

(h) Consultations

Interim Head of the Joint Integration Board; the Chief Executive; Interim Head of Children and Families and Criminal Justice social work services; Senior Human Resources Advisor; Paul Connor, Principal Accountant; Morag Smith Legal Services; Equal Opportunities Officer; Placement Services Manager and Tracey Sutherland, Committee Services Officer have been consulted in the preparation of this report and are in agreement as regards to their respective responsibilities.

4. CONCLUSION

4.1 The aim of this report is to provide Committee with update information about progress made since the inspection of the adoption service in October 2019.

4.2 The improvement action plan reflects the progress made and the actions that are underway which are audited through the Practice Governance Board.

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Background Papers:

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