



**REPORT TO: CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES COMMITTEE ON
3 APRIL 2019**

**SUBJECT: CARE INSPECTORATE – JOINT CHILDREN'S SERVICES
RETURN INSPECTION REPORT 2019**

**BY: ACTING CORPORATE DIRECTOR (EDUCATION AND SOCIAL
CARE)**

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 To inform the Committee of the outcome and publication of the Return Inspection Report.
- 1.2 This report is submitted to Committee in terms of Section III (D) (2) of the Council's Scheme of Administration relation to all the functions of the Council as Social Work Authority.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 It is recommended that Committee considers and notes the content and recommendations contained in the return inspection report (APPENDIX I).**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Care Inspectorate published a report in February 2017, following a joint inspection of Children's Services. This report identified important weaknesses in how children and young people were supported in the area, with improvements needed in leadership, strategic planning, and how services worked together to improve the lives of children experiencing neglect.
- 3.2 An inspection team, led by the Care Inspectorate, recently re-visited Moray to check on the progress made in addressing the six improvement areas identified in the first inspection.
- 3.3 In their latest progress review, published March 2019, inspectors noted: "Leaders and senior officers had taken the findings from the joint inspection in 2016 very seriously:
- "They had made a firm commitment to work more closely together and raise their collective aspiration for improving services to children and young people."

- “They had worked to develop and implement a comprehensive improvement plan to address the six improvement areas identified in the joint inspection report.”
- “Partners recognised the scale of improvement and culture change required to achieve their aspirations for all children and young people in Moray, and were committed to a five year change programme.”
- “Governance and reporting arrangements had been significantly strengthened and partners had prioritised the development and implementation of quality assurance approaches to improve standards of operational practice.”
- “Staff had developed a greater awareness and understanding of the impact of neglectful parenting on children and young people.”

3.4 Inspectors said community planning partners should maintain the strong momentum that has been built over the last two years to fully address the improvement actions set out in the report of the joint inspection in 2016. They added: “While acknowledging the challenging financial context facing leaders, it will be important to sustain the resources needed to fully address the improvement actions set out in the joint inspection report in 2016”.

3.5 They also said that partners should pay particular attention to quality assurance and supervision and find ways to demonstrate the difference services are making to the lives of children, young people and their families.

3.6 Peter Macleod, Chief Executive of the Care Inspectorate said: “This is an encouraging report, and we are pleased to note partners had been working hard to make the changes necessary to improve the lives of children and young people. Through their strengthened approaches to self-evaluation, and willingness to be outward facing and learn from high performing areas, partners were adopting new ways to improve the quality of services being delivered. Senior officers are aware that there is still work to do to fully embed a rights-based child-centered culture across Moray.

- “Given the progress made, and our confidence that leaders have the conditions in place for continued improvement, we will not be making any further reviews specifically in relation to the 2016 inspection.”
- “The Care Inspectorate and scrutiny partners are continuing to collaborate to carry out joint inspections across the country, focusing on the experience and outcomes for children and young people in need of care and protection.”
- “An inspection team will visit Moray in due course as part of that programme of inspection.”

4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

(a) Corporate Plan and 10 Year Plan (Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP))

This report relates to the following within the Corporate Plan 2018-2023:

- Where life is better for everyone.

- Provide a sustainable education service aiming for excellence.
- The vision being that our children have better educational and social outcomes and so are better prepared for life.
- Improved outcomes for those most in need of support.
- Our most vulnerable young people and families are safe and nurtured.
- Public and staff have confidence in all services we provide for children and young people.

And within the Moray, 10 year Plan – LOIP:

- Building a better future for our children and young people in Moray.
- Raising aspirations – building a better future for 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.
- People are healthier and experience fewer harms as a result of alcohol use.

The related strategies: -

Moray Children's Services Plan
 Moray Health and Social Care Partnership Strategic Plan 2016-2019
 Community Safety Strategy
 Moray Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan

(b) Policy and Legal

The Council has responsibilities to children in need and at risk through the Children and Young People's (Scotland) Act 2014 and the Looked After Children (Scotland) Regulations 2009.

(c) Financial implications

None in relation to noting the report. The matter of resources is being considered through Chief Officers Group.

(d) Risk Implications

None.

(e) Staffing Implications

None.

(f) Property

None.

(g) Equalities/Socio Economic Impact

None.

(h) Consultations

The Education and Social Care Senior Management Team and Tracey Sutherland, Committee Services Officer have been consulted in the preparation of this report and are in agreement with the content relating to their areas of responsibility.

5. CONCLUSION

5.1 The purpose of this report is to advise Committee of the content and publication of the Report and for this to be noted.

Author of Report: Kathy Henwood, Acting Head of Integrated Children's Services

Background Papers:

Ref: