



REPORT TO: COMMUNITY PLANNING BOARD ON 13 SEPTEMBER 2018

SUBJECT: PROGRESS REVIEW OF SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN MORAY BY CARE INSPECTORATE

BY: ACTING CORPORATE DIRECTOR, (EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES), MORAY COUNCIL

1. REASON FOR REPORT

1.1. To inform the Board of the forthcoming progress review for Children and Young People services in Moray due to commence in November 2018.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 It is recommended that the Community Planning Board consider and note:

- i) the scope and timing of the forthcoming progress review; and**
- ii) actions being taken to prepare for the review.**

3. BACKGROUND

3.1. An initial Joint Inspection of Children's Services undertaken by the Care Inspectorate, was reported on 16 March 2017 (item 2 of the Minute refers). The report can be accessed at [Care Inspectorate Report](#) February 2017.

3.2. The initial inspection highlighted six key areas of improvement :

- Improve standards of operational practice
- Improve initial risk assessment of, and response to vulnerable children and young people at risk of, or experiencing neglectful parenting or cumulative harm
- Strengthen collective vision and collaborative leadership

- Strengthen the approach to corporate parenting , participation and children’s rights to deliver improvements at a pace
 - Implement a framework of joint self-evaluation, ensuring a clear focus on improved outcomes for children and families
 - Improve governance, leadership and accountability of child protection committee
- 3.3 An initial progress review was undertaken in September 2017 to assess partners’ commitment to making improvements and their effectiveness in doing so at an appropriate pace. The report, published in December 2017, can be accessed at [Care Inspectorate Report December 2017](#).
- 3.4 The initial progress review reported:-
- Confidence that partners were taking the findings of the inspection seriously and are working hard to deliver change and improvement.
 - The need to maintain current momentum and build capacity at all levels to do this.
 - With strengthened strategic planning and quality assurance arrangements in place, the need to now evidence real improvements in operational practice and demonstrably better outcomes for children and families
 - The need to prioritise the development of a more strategic approach to children’s rights and participation
- 3.5 Moray Community Planning Partnership published its Moray Children’s Services Plan [Annual Report](#) 2017/18.
- 3.6 The Care Inspectorate have notified the Community Planning Board that they will be returning on 5th November to undertake a more in-depth progress review.
- 3.7 The aim of this report is to outline the scope of this progress review and preparations undertaken to date.
- 3.8 Key Matters Relevant to Recommendation

Scope of Progress Review

- Training of staff identified from across the partnership to co-deliver progress review with care Inspectorate.
- Submission of position statements and associated evidence. The Partnership are required to outline and evidence their current position in relation to the 6 areas of improvement highlighted in the initial inspection.
- Staff survey

To gauge staff views on progress to date in relation to the 6 areas for improvement.

- Multi agency audit of children and young people's files
- Focus groups made up of front line practitioners
- Network of support meetings
This will include meetings with the team around the child and meetings with children and families.
- Meetings with Leaders, including Chief Officers and Senior Managers

3.8 Timing

The team of Inspectors will be on site for 2 weeks; week commencing 5 November and 3 December 2018.

3.9 Preparation

A multi- agency Inspection Planning Group has been established to coordinate the inspection process on behalf of the partnership. It has been operational since 23rd July 2018 and is led by Pam Gowans, Chief Officer, Health & Social Care Moray and Graham Jarvis, Acting Corporate Director of Education and Children's Services, who also co-chair Executive Leadership Group (ELG).

4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

(a) Corporate Plan and 10 Year Plan (Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP)) and Moray Integration Joint Board Strategic Commissioning Plan 2016 – 2019

This report links to the priority of "Ambitious and Confident Children and Young People" as referred to in the Moray Integration Joint Board Strategic Commissioning Plan and the emerging Integrated Children's Services Plan.

(b) Policy and Legal

The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 requires Moray Council and NHS Grampian to produce a Joint children's services plan. Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014.

(c) Financial Implications

Given the capacity issues on all partner organisations and the inspection activity required there may be additional resources required to facilitate the inspection. Every effort will be made to deploy staff from existing core hours.

- (d) **Risk Implications and Mitigation**
The Partnership have been working on an improvement agenda however the inspectors may identify priorities for immediate attention and this will be facilitated by staff.
- (e) **Staffing Implications**
Whilst staff are already working at capacity, permissions have been given to prioritise this inspection. Current workload allocations will be reviewed to ensure there is sufficient capacity to allow the council, as a partner, to deliver the required improvements. This will be achieved through the use of staff who are not delivering frontline services wherever possible. Flexibility of working hours will be extended during the period of the preparation and inspection.
- (f) **Property**
The Chief Executive has given authority for specific rooms to be allocated for the use of the Inspection team.
- (g) **Equalities/Socio Economic Impact**
None directly associated with this report.
- (h) **Consultations**
Consultation on this report has taken place with the following staff who are in agreement with the content in relation to their area of responsibility:-

Legal Services Manager (Litigation and Licencing), Chief Financial Officer, Moray Council, Committee Services Officer

5. **CONCLUSION**

- 5.1 **This report recommends the Community Planning Board note the scope and timing of the forthcoming progress review and the preparatory actions that are currently being undertaken.**

Author of Report: Graham Jarvis, Acting Corporate Director
Background Papers:
Ref: