

Board Nurse Director

NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde
Outcome of Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIE) Reviews

1. Recommendations

Board members are asked to note the general summary of the HM Inspections of Services Reports to Protect children, recognising that inspections are multi-agency. Lessons learned from the inspections are progressed through a comprehensive range of governance structures consisting of:

- Chief Officers Forums
- Board Child Protection Forum
- CH(C)P Child Protection Forums
- Acute/Partnership Child Protection Forums
- Directorate Child Protection Forums

Board members are asked to note that this report does not go into the specific detail of individual inspection reports.

2. Introduction

This paper is a summary of HMIE Inspection reports specific to:

- East Renfrewshire
- Renfrewshire
- South Lanarkshire

As reports have been published for these areas, reports are yet to be received for:

- Inverclyde
- Glasgow City

The Joint Inspection of Children's Services and Inspection of Social Work Services (Scotland) Act 2006, together with associated regulations and code of practice provide the legislation framework for the conduct of joint inspections of the provision of services to children. Inspections are conducted within a published framework of quality indicator, 'How well are children and young people protected and their needs met?' (see appendix 1).

Inspection teams include Associate Assessors who are members of staff from service and agencies providing services to children and young people in other Scottish local authority areas.

3. Background

A three year programme of Joint Inspections to Protect Children was introduced in 2005; inspection reports have been received for:

- West Dunbartonshire – June 2007
- East Renfrewshire - March 2008
- South Lanarkshire - September 2008

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- Renfrewshire - October 2008

Inspection reports are awaited for:

- Inverclyde
- Glasgow City

The inspections covered the range of services and staff working in each area who have a role to protect children. These included services provided by health, the police, the local authority and the Scottish Children's Reporter Administration (SCRA), as well as those provided by voluntary and independent organisations. As part of the inspection process, inspectors reviewed practice through reading a sample of files held by services who work to protect children living in the area. Some of the children and families in the sample met and talked to inspectors about the services they had received.

Inspectors visited services that provided help to children and families and met users of these services. They talked to staff with responsibilities for protecting children across all the key services, this included staff with leadership and operational management responsibilities as well as those working directly with children and families.

Inspectors also sampled work that was being done in the area to protect children, by attending meetings and reviews.

4. Summary of Lessons Learned

The following summary of lessons learned are from the inspection reports mentioned earlier. Section 1 of this paper outlines the governance structures that are in place to ensure the appropriate action is taken to improve in the following areas:

- To further enhance methods of recognising and assessing risk and needs
- To develop participation of children, families and other relevant people in policy development
- To enhance record keeping
- To further develop public awareness of safety and protection of children

5. Areas of Strength

Each inspection reports identified areas of strength, some of which are highlighted below:

Areas of strength include:

- The strong vision, values and aims of Chief Officer Groups and Child Protection Committees
- Focused leadership and direction – demonstrating a strong commitment to joint working across all services
- The overall quality of communications among staff, children and families was excellent, children and families were very carefully listened to
- Operational planning and operational management to protect children was reported as excellent
- Staff development was reported as excellent, single and interagency training needs were assessed as excellent

6. Conclusion

Overall the inspector's reports concluded that they were either confident or very confident that children who required protection were known to services and prompt action was taken to ensure their safety. Children and their families were well supported by staff. That said there is always room for further improvement. Therefore each Child Protection Group has developed an action plan specific to their report indicators on how they will address the main recommendations in their report, this will enable HM Inspectors when they re-visit, to assess and measures the progress.

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Appendix 1 Quality Indicators

The following quality indicators have been used in the inspection process to evaluate the overall effectiveness of services to protect children and meet their needs.

How effective is the help children get when they need it?	
Children are listened to, understood and respected	Very Good
Children benefit from strategies to minimise harm	Very Good
Children are helped by the actions taken in immediate response to concerns	Good
Children's needs are met	Satisfactory
How well do services promote public awareness of child protection?	
Public awareness of the safety and protection of children	Very Good
How good is the delivery of key processes?	
Involving children and their families in key processes	Good
Information-sharing and recording	Good
Recognising and assessing risks and needs	Satisfactory
Effectiveness and planning to meet needs	Satisfactory
How good is operational management in protecting children and meeting their needs?	
Policies and procedures	Good
Operational planning	Good
Participation of children, families and other relevant people in policy development	Very Good
Recruitment and retention of staff	Very Good
Development of staff	Very Good
How good is individual and collective leadership?	
Vision, values and aims	Very Good
Leadership and direction	Very Good
Leadership of people and partnerships	Very Good
Leadership of change and improvement	Satisfactory

This report uses the following word scale to make clear the evaluations made by inspectors:

Excellent	Outstanding, sector leading
Very Good	Major strengths
Good	Important strengths with areas for improvement
Satisfactory	Strengths just outweigh weaknesses
Weak	Important weaknesses
Unsatisfactory	Major weaknesses