



**JOINT INSPECTION OF SERVICES TO
PROTECT CHILDREN**

**NEWSLETTER
June 2008**

Follow through joint inspection of services to protect children and young people in the Angus area

Information about the follow through Angus inspection of child protection

Why are services to protect children and young people being inspected?

In 2002 the Scottish Executive commissioned an audit and review of child protection across Scotland. One of the recommendations of the report of this audit and review "*It's everyone's job to make sure I'm alright*" was that "a further national review of child protection should be undertaken".

In March 2004, Scottish Ministers announced a multi-disciplinary inspection, which would cover all relevant services in each local authority area and would take place over a three-year period.

The Services for Children Unit (SfCU) within Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIE) was established to undertake this task. The aim of the Inspection is to ensure that children are being protected, to help agencies improve their services and to share good practice.

In February 2007 the report of the Angus inspection was published. Overall the inspectors' findings were positive with inspectors concluding;

They were confident that the children who needed protection in Angus were known to services and that actions were taken to meet their needs. Most children were protected, and staff had taken steps to ensure that their needs were met and their circumstances improved.

A copy of the report on the Angus area inspection can be found at:

HMIE.gov.uk

Four key recommendations were made to Chief Officers responsible for the protection of children:

1. develop clear and shared thresholds of risk to ensure that staff consistently apply procedures for reporting and responding to concerns;
2. ensure the full involvement of health and medical staff in child protection processes;
3. improve the processes for assessment of need and ensure that children who require compulsory measures of care are identified and receive this when they need it; and
4. improve the recording, monitoring and assessment by health practitioners.

The chief officers were asked to prepare an action plan indicating how they intended to address these recommendations and they were advised that within two years of the report being published, HM Inspectors would re-visit Angus to assess and report on progress made in meeting these recommendations.

Chief Officers have now received notification from HMIE that the follow through inspection will take place during the week of 20 October 2008.

Information about the Services for Children Unit

The inspection team, which will usually include associate inspectors (current practitioners), will be multi agency including inspectors with backgrounds in education, social work/social care, the police, and health.

What will the Inspectors look for?

The inspection will focus on the child protection services delivered in the Angus area and the progress made in meeting the recommendations of the inspection in February 2007. This will include services provided by health, the police, Scottish Children's Reporter Administration and voluntary and private organisations as well as those provided by the local authority.

The inspectors will look to evaluate the impact of services on children and families and answer the key questions set out in the publication *How well are children and young people protected and their needs met?* <http://www.hmie.gov.uk/documents/publication/hwcpnm.pdf>

Announcement of the follow through inspection

The Chief Officers of relevant agencies in Angus were notified on 16 June 2008 that the Angus follow through inspection of child protection will take place during week commencing 20 October 2008. By 22 August 2008 the following has to be submitted to HMIE:

- ✚ an updated pre-inspection return (PIR) which provides details of the key agencies involved in the protection of children; and
- ✚ a self evaluation report outlining progress, by all agencies, against the recommendations of the inspection in 2007.

Arrangements for the inspection in Angus

Each agency has nominated a key person who will assist the inspection team. The nominated key people in Angus will work together as a Link Lead Officer Group to ensure the completion of the PIR and to assist with co-ordination of the Inspection. Every effort will be made to avoid asking for information that can be readily accessed in other ways. Members of the Link Lead Officer Group are outlined at the end of this newsletter.

The managing inspector, Ms Jacquie Pepper, who will lead the inspection team, will meet with chief officers and other staff during the week of the follow through inspection to assess progress made since the inspection in 2007.

At the end of the inspection verbal feedback will be given on the findings to the chief officers of the services inspected and to the chair of the Child Protection Committee (CPC).

For the duration of the inspection the inspectors will be based at the Joint Police, Health and Social Work Child Protection HQ, Bellevue House, Springfield Terrace, Arbroath.

What happens after the Inspection?

Following inspection, a draft report will be produced which will be checked for accuracy with the agencies involved in the inspection. The report will be published on the HMIE website.

What about confidentiality?

Inspectors will normally keep confidential any personal information they access during the inspection. If they identify information which leads them to believe a child or young person is at risk of harm this information will require to be discussed further and may be shared more widely. Inspectors will not use names or describe individuals in their report. All children and their families involved in the inspection will be sent a leaflet outlining the process.

Further information:

Further information about the Inspection can be found on the HMIE website www.hmie.gov.uk.

The lead person for the inspection in Angus is:

Kate Mearns
Development Manager, Child Protection
St Margaret's House,
Orchardbank Business Park
Forfar, DD8 1WS

Tel: 01307 474869
mearnsk@angus.gov.uk

Members of the Link Lead Officer Group are as follows:

<p>Children's Panel</p> <p>Andy Homfray Angus Children's Panel Angus House Orchardbank Business Park Forfar Tel: 01307 476282</p>	<p>Education Department</p> <p>Susan Duff Education Department Angus House Orchardbank Business Park Forfar Tel: 01307 476363</p>	<p>Angus Voluntary Sector Children's Forum</p> <p>Murdo Mathers Barnardo's Angus Office Services 22-24 Catherine Street Arbroath Tel: 01241 873146</p>
<p>Housing Department</p> <p>Elaine Ritchie William Wallace House Orchardbank Business Park Forfar Tel: 01307 474758</p>	<p>NHS Tayside</p> <p>Lindsay Ferguson Nurse Consultant Protection of Children & Vulnerable Families NHS Tayside Ashludie Hospital Monifieth Tel: 01382 527865</p>	<p>Authority Reporter</p> <p>Rosie Campbell Authority Reporter SCRA Merrin House East Abbey Street Arbroath Tel: 01241 873194</p>
<p>Tayside Police</p> <p>DCI Graham McMillan Tayside Police Eastern Division West High Street Forfar Tel: 0845 600 5705</p>	<p>Social Work and Health</p> <p>Gordon McIntosh Social Work Department Ravenswood New Road Forfar Tel: 01307 462405</p>	<p>Leisure Services</p> <p>Alastair Wilson Head of Sport Services The Yard Queenswell Road Forfar Tel: 01307 475360</p>
<p>Out of Hours Service</p> <p>Out of Hours Service 353 Clepington Road Dundee Tel: 01382 432270</p>		