



**HMle Joint Inspection of Services to Protect
Children and Young People and Local
Authority Fostering and Adoption Services**

NEWSLETTER

November 2010

Information about the Joint Integrated Inspection of services to protect children and young people in the Angus Council area

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

The second round of Her Majesty's Inspectorate Education (HMIE) Joint Inspection of Services to Protect Children and Young People in the Angus council area will be conducted over 2 full weeks from the 10th to 14th January 2011 and 24th to 28th January 2011. This will be a combined inspection of child protection services, with the inspection of local authority fostering and adoption service. This will mean that there will be one inspection which will examine how children are protected within the authority area and which will include, within the case sample examined, children who are in foster care (including, potentially, pre-adoption placement).

The aim of the Inspection is to ensure that the most vulnerable children are being protected, to help agencies improve their services and to share good practice. The inspection is an opportunity for staff to highlight the good and effective practice that is in place in Angus.

HM Inspectorate of Education (HMIE) published a report on the first joint inspection of services to protect children and young people in Angus in February 2007. Working together, services within Angus Council area prepared an inter-agency action plan indicating how they would address the main points for action identified in the original HMIE inspection report. www.hmie.gov.uk/ViewEstablishment.aspx?id=11840&type=12

HMIE Inspectors revisited the Angus Council area in October 2008 to assess the extent to which services were continuing to improve the quality of their work to protect children and young people, and to evaluate progress made in response to the main points for action highlighted in the original inspection.

The HMIE Follow Through Inspection Report, published in February 2009 www.hmie.gov.uk/ViewEstablishment.aspx?id=11840&type=12 highlighted that the Angus Executive Group for Child Protection and the Angus Child Protection Committee has taken very effective action to implement the main points for action arising from the full inspection. The report noted that through the strong leadership of the Angus Child Protection Committee, services had continued to work well together and were active and productive in improving the provision for children in need of protection.

Findings from the previous inspection

A key focus within the forthcoming inspection will be on what improvement actions that have taken place arising from the follow-through inspection that took place in October 2008. These are:

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	4. Improve the recording, monitoring and assessment by health practitioners.
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Information about the Inspection Team for Angus Council area

The inspection team, which will include an associate inspector (current practitioner), will be multi agency including inspectors with backgrounds in education, social work, the police, and health. The managing inspector who will have overall responsibility for the inspection and report is Fiona McManus. The inspection team will consist of the following people:

Fiona McManus	Managing Inspector	Hugh Mackintosh	Team Member
Jacqui Rennie	Depute Managing Inspector	Emma McWilliam	Team Member
Len McConnell	Principle Team Member	Helen Happer	Team Member
Jacque Pepper	Principle Team Member	Joan Lafferty	Team Member
Marjory Booth	Team Member (Care Commission)	Carole McConville	Associate Assessor
Linda Connelly	Team Member (SWIA)	Annie Griffin	Paediatrician
		Marian Martin	Assistant Chief Inspector

What will the inspectors look for?

As well as looking at what improvement actions that have taken place arising from the last inspection, 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 do we protect children and meet their needs?" <http://www.hmie.gov.uk/documents/publication/hwdwpcamtn.pdf>

The inspection will evaluate the following Reference Quality Indicators:

- 1.1 Improvements in performance;
- 2.1 Children and young people are listened to, understood and respected;
- 2.2 Children and young people benefit from strategies to minimise harm;
- 2.3 Children and young people are helped by the actions taken in immediate response to concerns;
- 2.4 Children's and young people's needs are met; and
- 5.5 Improvement through self evaluation.

The inspection will focus on 29 cases. Categories will be children on the child protection register, children who have come off the child protection register, and cases not on the register however have been subject to child protection activity.

Inspectors will carry out a range of activities including reading 29 children's multi agency files. They will meet with parents/carers, children and 29 groups of workers who know and supported the children and families whose files will be read. They will also meet with groups of staff and may visit projects/developments highlighted as good practice examples.

The CPC will prepare 3 good practice examples to highlight to HMIE during the inspection. These should demonstrate how services have worked together to improve outcomes for vulnerable children and families; and should also increase efficiency, tackle inequalities; and improve the life chances of children at risk of abuse and neglect.

During the inspection, there will also be a focus on 7 key areas. These are:

- Children Missing from Education (CME);
- Internet safety;
- Runaways;
- Trafficked children;

- Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBT);
- Child protection medical examinations;
- Management of sex offenders in relation to child protection.

Arrangements for the inspection in Angus

Each agency has nominated a key person who will assist in the preparation for the inspection. The nominated key people in Angus will be members of the CPC Continuous Improvement sub committee who will work together to ensure the completion of the Self Evaluation Report 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 continuous improvement sub group are outlined at the end of this newsletter.

At the end of the inspection verbal feedback will be given on the findings to the Chief Officers of the services inspected and the Chair of the Child Protection Committee.

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

What happens after the Inspection?

Following the inspection, the inspectors will write a report, which will consider:

- How have the services improved?
- How well are the needs of the children and families met?
- How good is the delivery and management of services?
- How good is the leadership and direction?

The findings of the report will be shared with Chief Officers and members of the Child Protection Committee at the end of February 2011. The report will then be published on the HMIe website in April 2011.

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.

The lead person for the inspection in Angus is:

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Further information about the Inspection can be found by clicking on the link below and at the HMIe website www.hmie.gov.uk.



F:\Childrens Team\
 CPC\HMIe Inspection

Members of the Continuous Improvement sub committee are as follows:

<p>Child Protection Committee Chairperson CPC Tim Armstrong Social Work Department Ravenswood New Road Forfar <i>Tel: 01307 462405</i></p> <p>Sharon Robertson Senior Planning Officer (CP) St Margaret's House Orchardbank Business Park Forfar <i>Tel: 01307 474869</i></p>	<p>Social Work and Health Kate Mearns Service Manager Strathmore Avenue Forfar <i>Tel:01307 461767</i></p> <p>Yvonne Jamieson Team Leader Support to Families Team Arbroath <i>Tel: 01241 870163</i></p>	<p>NHS Tayside Ruth Swanston Interim Service Manager Whitehills HCCC Forfar <i>Tel: 01307 475074</i></p> <p>Eileen Tilbury Advanced Nurse Practitioner Bellevue House Springfield Terrace Arbroath <i>Tel: 01241 435472</i></p> <p>John McLean Operations Manager Tayside Substance Misuse Service Dundee <i>Tel: 01382 424534</i></p>
<p>Tayside Police DS Fraser Mitchell Public Protection Unit Bellevue House Springfield Terrace Arbroath <i>Tel: 01241 435741</i></p>	<p>Neighbourhood Services Gordon Nicol Senior Housing Officer Neighbourhood Services 13 Hill Terrace Arbroath <i>Tel: 01241 435263</i></p>	<p>Authority Reporter Rosie Campbell Authority Reporter SCRA Merrin House East Abbey Street Arbroath <i>Tel: 01241 87319</i></p>
<p>Angus Voluntary Sector Children's Forum Murdo Mathers Barnardo's Angus Office Services 22-24 Catherine Street Arbroath <i>Tel: 01241 873146</i></p>	<p>Education Department Gregor Robson Quality Improvement Officer Ravenswood New Road Forfar <i>Tel: 01307 466785</i></p>	