

EAST AYRSHIRE CHIEF OFFICERS GROUP – 2 JUNE 2009

HMIE 3-YEAR INSPECTION CYCLE AND REVISED QUALITY INDICATORS

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To provide the Committee with the draft revised quality indicators and advise of the new 3-year inspection cycle for the HMIE Joint Inspections of services to protect children and young people.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The HMIE have announced a 3 year cycle of joint inspections of services to protect children and young people and to support this new phase they have revised the quality indicators. The HMIE Joint inspection of services to protect children and young people in East Ayrshire Council Area took place between June and September 2007 and the report into their findings was published in January 2008. Within 2 years of the publication of the report the HMIE stated that they would re-visit the authority area to assess and report on progress made in meeting the recommendations. The follow up visit by the HMIE will now take place in the new 3 year inspection cycle. The timetable of inspections has not yet been announced but the HMIE plan to inspect 10 council areas before March 2010.

3. 3 YEAR CYCLE INSPECTION CYCLE

- 3.1 As inspection becomes increasingly proportionate, external evaluation will focus on fewer quality indicators and self-evaluation will help to determine the scope of each inspection. There will be a sharper focus on outcomes for vulnerable children.
- 3.2 The proposed model will be in 3 phases over 2 weeks of fieldwork carried out by a Principle team of 4, which will consist of a Lead inspector, Deputy inspector and 2 other inspectors.

WEEK 1 - SCOPING PHASE (Monday and Tuesday)

- Review of the joint self-evaluation report from chief officers
- Documentation including other appropriate inspection reports
- Action plan/ progress report from previous inspections
- Analyse questionnaires from service users
- If there is not a robust self-evaluation then there will be increasing scrutiny
- Different authority areas will get different scoping activity.
- Review good practice folders
- Engage professional dialogue with CPC reps and COGs

CORE PHASE WEEK 1 (Wednesday to Friday)

- Sample case records- based on children on the child protection register and children deregistered in the last year (Considering widening this to children with CP Investigations)
- Number of cases- between 19-29 (dependant on size of LA Area)
- Reading for a narrower set of indicators in an outcome focus inspection model
- Reading for QIs 2.1 to 2.4 (old QIs 1.1 to 1.4)

3.3 Then following a one week gap (raised by National Chairs Group that this may be too short to get organised for phase 2)

PROPORTIONATE PHASE WEEK 2

- Interview children and parents (for all cases read with agreement)
- Interview staff in a multi-agency format for those that form part of the child's 'support network'
- Interview senior staff
- Engage in professional dialogue with the CPC and representatives about improvement and good practice

4. INSPECTION REPORT

4.1 The inspection report will look at the key questions of: -

- 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?

4.2 The previous inspection reports addressed all 18 of the quality indicators. The reports will now evaluate on 6 quality indicators: -

1.1 Improvement 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 and young people's needs are met

5.5 Improvement through self-evaluation

5. DRAFT REVISED QUALITY INDICATORS

5.1 The draft revised quality indicators 'How Well Do We Protect Children and Meet Their Needs?' are appended to this paper for you information. The key areas of the revised quality indicators are: -

1. Key performance outcomes
2. Impact of children and families in need of protection
3. Impact on staff
4. Impact on community
5. Delivery of services to children and families in need of protection
6. Policy development and planning
7. Management and support of staff
8. Partnership and resources
9. Leadership and direction

6. RECOMMENDATION

6.1 The Chief Officers Group is asked to: -

- i. note the proposed 3 year cycle of HMle inspections and revised quality indicators;
- ii. note that the HMle revisit to East Ayrshire will now take place under the 3 year cycle of inspections.

Susan Taylor
Chair of Child Protection Committee
7 May 2009

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