



EAST AYRSHIRE CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE: 14 DECEMBER 2009

INSPECTION REPORT

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To provide the Child Protection Committee with further information in relation to the child protection inspection.

Week one - 26 October 2009

- self evaluation presentation by the chief officers group
- file reading of 32 children's files
- finalising the scoping document

Week two - 9 November 2009

- professional discussion of good practice
- interviews of children and parents carers
- meet staff through focus groups and network of supports for each of the children in the sample

2. INSPECTION FEEDBACK

- 2.1 The inspectors concluded their fieldwork for the second inspection of services to protect children in the East Ayrshire Council area on Friday 13 November 2009.
- 2.2 During the inspection dialogue with the Chief Officers Group and members of the Child Protection Committee took place on a number of occasions.
- Thursday 12 November 2009 - verbal feedback of the inspection findings;
 - Wednesday 25 November 2009 - further discussion of the inspection findings between key agency representatives and Emma McWilliams, lead inspector and Fiona McManus, link inspector;

- Friday 4 December 2009 - meeting with Lead inspectors and the Chair of the Chief Officers Group and the Chair of the Child Protection Committee.

3. INSPECTION FINDINGS

3.1 Overall the inspection was positive and it highlighted some key strengths: -

- Trusting relationships between children, families and staff,
- The positive impact of the wide range of services on early intervention to help vulnerable children and families
- Strong collaboration and a high level of motivation among staff to help keep children safe
- Strengthened leadership and management of social work services impacting positively on the delivery of children and families social work services to protect children and increasing capacity for effective partnership working
- A very strong commitment to self-evaluation to establish the quality of services and plan for improvements in East Ayrshire Council area.

4. GOOD PRACTICE EXAMPLES

4.1 The HMle have very specific criteria of what can be deemed a good practice example. Selected good practice examples must have clear outcomes for children. The good practice examples selected for East Ayrshire are: -

- The support to young carers affected by parental substance misuse;
- Leisure and recreation opportunities for young people who are looked after and accommodated in our residential children's houses;
- Impact of the Solihull approach on improving parenting skills and family relationships.

5. INSPECTION REPORT

5.1 The reports produced by HMle for the second phase of inspections will be clear and concise in the format of school inspection reports. The final report will recognise the progress we have made since the last inspection and will highlight areas for further improvement, as also identified through our own self evaluation activity.

- Mid December draft report completed
- February 2009 final report published

6. RECOMMENDATION

6.1 The Child Protection Committee is asked to: -

- (i) note the contents of this report.

Susan Taylor
Chair of the Child Protection Committee
8 December 2009

Report prepared by Diane Burns, Child Protection Co-ordinator