

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

GOVERNANCE AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 24 OCTOBER 2008

THE JOINT INSPECTION OF SERVICES TO PROTECT CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL AREA

Report by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to inform members of the Governance and Scrutiny Committee of progress in respect of the key actions arising from the Inspection of Services to Protect Children, which was published January 2008.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIE) inspected a range of services in relation to the protection of children and young people during the course of 2007. Overall, the inspection report was very positive and the undernoted sets out the key strengths identified by the Inspectors:

- the quality of relationships between staff and children which helped children effectively communicate their needs and views;
- the range of successful approaches used to raise public awareness of child protection;
- children, especially vulnerable children and their families, were consistently involved in the development and design of services;
- shared vision, values and aims, which influenced the work of partnership services;
- staff awareness and ownership of joint planning for improvement; and
- partnership working at a strategic level, across all services.

- 2.2 The report also highlighted a number of main points for action. These are:

- Improved processes for identifying and assessing risks and needs of children where there are child protection concerns.
- More fully involve Health in Child Protection processes and improve children's access to medical assessments and examinations.
- Improve joint planning to meet children's needs.
- Ensure the work of social workers is monitored more consistently.

3. PROGRESS

- 3.1 Schedule 1 to this report sets out progress against the key actions arising from the report, and schedule 2 sets out for members information, the Child Protection Business Plan 2008 – 2011. This document is being used as the main vehicle for implementing and monitoring progress in relation to the actions arising from the inspection report and integrating with the next three year child protection business planning cycle.

3.2 Available on the Members Portal and on the Child Protection Website is the review of the 2007/08 Business Plan and a supporting document setting out statistical information.

3.3 Cabinet of 1 October 2008 recently approved the recommendation to ask officers to consider any action arising from the Business Plan in respect of risk management arrangements.

4. POLICY & LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Nil

5. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Nil

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Nil

7. COMMUNITY PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The protection of children is a key priority in the Community Safety theme of the Community Plan and the Children and Young Persons Services Plan.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 Members of the Governance & Scrutiny Committee are asked to:

- i) Note the progress made in respect of implementing the action points arising from the inspection.

Graham R Short
Executive Director of Educational and Social Services
7 October 2008

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. **Joint Inspection of Services to Protect Children and Young People in the East Ayrshire Council Area – January 2008**

IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER: KAY GILMOUR, ACTING EXECUTIVE HEAD OF SOCIAL WORK

Anyone wishing further information please contact Graham Short, Executive Director of Educational and Social Services on 01563 – 576003 or Kay Gilmour, Acting Executive Head of Social Work on 01563 – 576917

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ACTION POINTS	PROGRESS
Improved processes for identifying and assessing risks and needs of children where there are child protection concerns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training on risk assessment has taken place, with all Team Managers in children and families. All social workers and addiction worker training will be complete by November 2008. Thereafter, the training will be mandatory for all new staff. • Multi-agency pre referral group established. • Team Manager pre referral / duty has been appointed.
More fully involve Health in Child Protection processes and improve children's access to medical assessments and examinations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The protocol for ensuring vulnerable children have access to General Medical Services is being re-established. • A current review of mental health services is underway which will seek to improve access to the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service.
Improve joint planning to meet children's needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Auditing of case files are taking place • Integrated Assessment Framework continues to be progressed
Ensure the work of social workers is monitored more consistently	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A social work supervision policy was implemented in December 2007. this is routinely monitored through regular management information to the Management Team