



Joint Inspection of Services for Children and Young People, Newsletter 3, June 2015

Dear Colleagues,

As you know, the Partnership has been preparing for the forthcoming inspection of children's services in Fife. The purpose of this Newsletter is to bring you up to date with the stage reached in preparing for the inspection and to provide you with information on the next stages, including timescales.

I am very grateful to everyone for your support so far and the contributions made from across the Partnership to the process, and particularly to the production of the self-evaluation document, further details of which are provided in this newsletter. From the evidence assembled so far, and particularly in studying the analysis of outcomes for children and young people it is clear that we have a very positive story to tell. Together we are making a difference to the lives of children and young people, particularly the disadvantaged and most vulnerable, and this is thanks to the development of services over the years of which you have been a part.

Therefore, while we can and should look to this important inspection as being of assistance to us in further developing and improving services, I am also very confident that the inspectors will recognise the high quality of work being done throughout the Fife area to give children and young people the best start in life. Certainly the evidence on outcomes supports such a view.

Yours sincerely,

Craig Munro

Executive Director

Education and Children's Services

Dr Scott McLean

Director of Acute Services

Executive Lead: Children's Services NHS Fife

Kenny Murphy

Chief Executive Officer

Fife Voluntary Action

PROGRESS SO FAR

- Over 100 vulnerable children and young people's files will be read by the inspectors. Your service will already have been contacted.
- Inspectors have conducted an on-line staff survey across the Partnership, with Named Persons and Lead Professionals. The results of this survey will inform the scoping exercise.
- A self-evaluation document has been submitted by the Partnership to the Care Inspectorate. This is a joint piece of work by the Partnership, involving contributions and evaluations from all services. Position Statements on the implementation of GIRFEC, Corporate Parenting and Child Sexual Exploitation have also been provided. Four examples of partnership good practice have also been submitted; Mobile Alcohol Intervention Team (MAIT), Early Years Collaborative, Springfield Project and Get On My Level (Teen Pregnancy).



THE SELF-EVALUATION DOCUMENT

If you wish to read the self-evaluation summary document, good practice examples and the position statements on Corporate Parenting, Getting It Right For Every Child and Child Sexual Exploitation they are available at <http://www.fifedirect.org.uk>

In addition to giving some contextual information, the documents include evidence and evaluations on each of the 22 quality indicators used by the Care Inspectorate. Each quality indicator is accompanied by a statement of “key strengths” and “areas for improvement”. The evidence forming the basis of the evaluations was gathered from the Children’s Partnership in Fife.

The self-evaluation provides strong and comprehensive evidence of the quality of the joint work both at strategic and operational levels between partners. Most importantly of all, it identifies the very good outcomes (quality indicator 1.1) being delivered across the wellbeing indicators for our children and young people. In reaching this evaluation use has been made of trend information, comparisons to national statistics and to similar areas in Scotland.

All quality indicators that are reported on by the Care Inspectorate we have graded as “good” or “very good” in our self-evaluation.

The four areas of good practice, using the Care Inspectorate’s criteria of multi-agency working and the measurable difference being made to the lives of children and young people, are:

- The Mobile Alcohol Intervention Team (MAIT)
- Early Years Collaborative
- Springfield Project – Therapeutic Service for looked After Children
- Get On My Level - Targeted Teenage Pregnancy Interventions

THE NEXT STEPS IN THE PROCESS AND HOW YOU MIGHT BE INVOLVED

- **17 August 2015:** Inspectors read the information provided, and available to them from other sources, to start scoping the inspection.
- **24 – 28 August 2015:** Senior managers from the Partnership will meet inspectors to continue the scoping exercise. Inspectors will attend a range of strategic meetings.
- **14-18 September 2015:** Inspectors, assisted by four staff from Fife, read and review the information contained in the sample of vulnerable children’s files with the aim of reaching a view on practice. This stage will result in inspectors confirming arrangements for discussions with the “Team Around the Child” which may involve some of you.
- **5-9 October 2015:** Inspectors meet with “Teams Around the Child”, children, young people, parents and carers; hold interviews with key members of staff; conduct single or multi-agency focus groups; visit services and observe groups or key processes.

For more information, including further references to key documents refer to Fife Children’s Services Plan 2014-2017: [Fife Children's Services Plan](#)