

**SOCIAL WORK INSPECTION AGENCY (SWIA)**

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**1. SUMMARY**

- 1.1 The Social Work Inspection Agency (SWIA) undertook an Inspection of the Social Work Services in Argyll and Bute, including Criminal Justice Services, between February and June 2007 as part of their first round of inspections for all 32 Local Authorities in Scotland. The Performance Inspection Report was published on 26<sup>th</sup> October and is available on the SWIA website.
- 1.2 An agreed Action Plan was approved by the Council and SWIA during January of 2008.
- 1.3 SWIA met with Senior Officers of the Council on April 21<sup>st</sup> 2008 to discuss the progress being made. SWIA noted the significant level of activity and progress being achieved.
- 1.4 SWIA returned to Argyll & Bute during June 2008 as directed at Ministerial level to provide an interim report on progress prior to the usual visit return visit planned for January 2009. SWIA Officers visited three days (18 -20<sup>th</sup>) and met with Officers and Members of the Council as well as senior Officers of the CHP. Thereafter, the Ministers wrote to the Chief Executive of the Council noting the satisfactory progress reported by SWIA.
- 1.5 SWIA returned again to Argyll & Bute on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> of January for a week during which time they interviewed Senior Members and Officers of the Council, a variety of Social Work staff across all the grades and a number of stakeholders including the NHS and Carers groups. The verbal report provided at the end of the week noted satisfactory progress on all the recommendations of the Action Plan. SWIA indicated that their formal report would conclude that the number of action points for future action would be reduced and that their future contact with the Council would be a significantly lighter touch via six monthly meetings with the two Heads of Service.
- 1.6 It was expected that the draft SWIA report would be made available to the Council by mid February however there have been delays in this process and the report is expected by the end of February. It is the intention to distribute the draft report to the Members of the Social Affairs PPG on receipt, in order that the matter can be discussed in full at the meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> March.

## 2 CONCLUSION

- 3.1 The Social Work Inspection Agency (SWIA) undertook a Performance Inspection in respect of Social Work services in Argyll and Bute from February to June 2007. The report of this Inspection was published on 26<sup>th</sup> October. In order to address the improvement identified as necessary, an Improvement Plan was agreed between the Council and SWIA. This has formed the basis of an ongoing improvement agenda. Since then, SWIA have returned to Argyll & Bute on two occasions indicating that satisfactory progress is being made. The draft report from SWIA will be made available to the PPGG for discussion on 9<sup>th</sup> March on receipt.

For further information contact:

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