

## **1. SUMMARY**

- 1.1** This report provides the CPP Management Committee with a brief update relating to the Inspection of Children's Service in Argyll and Bute.

A copy of the two important timeline reports is attached at Appendix 1 and 2.

- 1.2** Key agency leads are actively writing leadership statements which form an important part of the Inspection. These statements set out the progress the Partnership are making in relation to improving outcomes for children and young people across Argyll and Bute.

There are 9 statements in total covering a range of topics including Corporate Parenting, Involvement, GIRFEC, Getting The Best Start, Achieving, Nurtured, Healthy and Active, Children are Safe, and Our Children are Included.

## **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1** The CPP note that the Inspection will be conducted over 13 days between Monday 4th March 2013 and Friday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2013.

The CPP note the Inspection Lead who will have overall responsibility for the pilot inspection and the reporting of findings is Judith Tait, Senior Inspector, Care Inspectorate.

The CPP note the Lead Officer for the partnership during the inspection is Liz Strang Argyll and Bute Council.

### 3. BACKGROUND

**3.1** Inspections of care services for children will be used to obtain evidence of:-

- the quality of care services within the Community Planning Partner area
- the experiences of and outcomes for individual children and young people within a care service
- the views of carers – for example foster carers
- the views of staff

#### **3.2 Phase 1**

In advance of the Joint Inspection, careful scheduling of a series of short notice or unannounced inspections of regulated care services have been conducted and completed prior to the inspection commencing. A selection of the most relevant services have been selected. This scoping phase of the inspection is currently on-going.

#### **3.3 Phase 2 and 3**

**Phase Two** will be carried out by inspectors on-site and start on the inspection date. Together, the team will carry out a series of scrutiny events.

**Phase Three** will comprise a review of practice by reading the core records of a statistically valid sample of children. This activity is a core element for each inspection and is designed to provide evidence of the quality of practice.

Proportionate scrutiny will then be carried out in relation to areas of uncertainty about the quality of outcomes for children currently being achieved after the scoping and core phase of the inspection is completed.

### **3.4 Findings**

At the conclusion of the inspection, the findings of Inspectors will be shared with Chief Officers and the CPP.

### **4.0 Latest Update**

Since the last report to CPP on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2013 the following progress has been made;

- Our nine joint statements were completed and uploaded onto Share Point on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2013 for the start of Phase Two scrutiny events
- Inspectors arrived on 4<sup>th</sup> March to begin reading the statements and our evidence of the impact of collaborative leadership and partnership working
- Our Share Point repository site holds our full supporting evidence in relation to the nine statements.
- Inspectors facilitated a range of Focus groups with staff across the partnership on the ICSP, the 9 position statements, self- evaluation and Corporate Parenting during 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> March
- We have delivered the records of 90 cases for Inspectors to read for evidence of our practice. The file reading and access to care first electronic data base is being conducted over 18<sup>th</sup> -22<sup>nd</sup> March.
- We have confirmed the names of the 18 cases of " Teams round the Child" Focus Groups during Scoping Week 3
- We have sent a list of potential venues to Inspectors for their consideration for the Teams Round the Child Meetings.
- Inspectors will identify a sample of children and families/carers to follow up during Scoping Week 3
- We are continuing to update our Inspection blog to ensure staff have up to date information relating to our inspection activity.

## **5.0 CONCLUSION**

CPP Management Committee note the Inspection of Children's services is progressing across Argyll and Bute.

CPP note the content of section 4 of this report as key update relating to progress to date.

For further information, please contact:

Liz Strang

Lead Officer Child Protection and Integrated Children's Services.

**CARE SERVICE INSPECTION - 2013**

| PREPARATION  |                             |  |                        |   |   |  |   | PHASE 1                              |   |                         |
|--|-----------------------------|--|------------------------|---|---|--|---|--------------------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| WEEK 1<br>w/b 17.12.12   | WEEK 2<br>w/b 24.12.12      | WEEK 3<br>w/b 31.12.12   | WEEK 4<br>w/b 07.01.13 | WEEK 5<br>w/b 14.01.13  | WEEK 6<br>w/b 21.01.13  | WEEK 7<br>w/b 28.01.13   | WEEK 8<br>w/b 04.02.13  | WEEK 9<br>w/b 11.02.13               | WEEK 10<br>w/b 18.02.13                                 | WEEK 11<br>w/b 25.02.13 |
|  |                             |  |                        |   | On-site - 0.5 days<br>1. Brief Community Planning Partners<br>2. Receipt of PIR material for scoping phase including position statements on corporate parenting and involvement.<br>3. A&B Issue survey to staff.<br>4. CI - Selection of case sample |  |   |                                      |   |                         |
| Develop multi-agency inspection plan. ✓                                | Confirmation of template. ✓ | Development of Corporate parenting statement - Alex Taylor/ Mark Wilson. ✓ |                        | Consultation on corporate parenting statement with support forum. |   |  | Update progress to CP Partners at CPP.                          | Multi-agency briefing.               | Multi-agency briefing.                                  |                         |
| Sharepoint site confirmed suitable. ✓                                  | Allocate worker. ✓          | Development of involvement statement - Bryan Evans/ Mark Lines. ✓          |                        | Consultation with 3rd Sector on involvement statement.            |   |  | Activities identified for inspectors for wk beginning 04.03.13. | Focus groups on statements arranged. | Confirm timetable and send to Inspectors.               |                         |
| Lead for each agency identified. ✓                                     |                             | Structures on each agency submitted. ✓                                     |                        | 2 x Statements signed off by partners.                            |   |  |   |                                      | New A&B Children  |                         |
| Agree high level outcomes. ✓   |                             | Structure A&B. ✓   |                        | 2 x Statements signed off by Community Planning.                  |   |  |   | Timetable for inspectors created.    | Statements to CPC (safe statement confirmed) (21.02.13) |                         |
| Development of templates for statements. ✓                             |                             |  |                        | Briefing dates arranged for staff.                                |   |  |   |                                      |   |                         |
| Sample date to be confirmed. ✓   |                             |  |                        | Paper on process ICSP.  | Meeting for ICSP. X   |  |   | Implementation Plan for ICSP         | ICSP consultation event (19.02.13)                      |                         |
| Assign statement to lead professionals. Development of 6 statements. ✓ |                             |  |                        |   | Submit PIR. ✓   |  |   |                                      |   |                         |
| Template for activities for Inspectors. ✓                              |                             |  |                        |   | Community Planning partners sign CP Promise. ???  | List of Sample cases to Carefirst trainers for data cleansing. | HOS takes 2 x statements to CPP.                                |                                      |   |                         |
|  |                             |  |                        |   | Business meeting re New A&B Children  | List of allocated workers to DH.                               |   |                                      |   |                         |
|  |                             |  |                        |   |   | 9 Statement catch up.  |   |                                      |   |                         |
|  |                             |  |                        |   |   | Corporate Parenting statement submitted.                       |   |                                      |   |                         |
|  |                             |  |                        |   |   | Sharepoint evidence repository started.                        |   |                                      |   |                         |



| <b>Pilot Joint Inspection of Services for children ( Argyll and Bute Local Authority)</b>   |  |  |  |
|---|--|--|--|
| <b>On-site<br/>3 days</b>   | <b>On-site<br/>5 days</b>  | <b>On-site<br/>5 days</b>  | <b>On-site<br/>0.5 day</b>   |
| <b>(Mon – depending on access to evidence)<br/>Tues 5th<br/>Wed 6th<br/>Thurs 7th</b>   | <b>w/b 18/03/13</b>  | <b>w/b 15/04/13</b>  | <b>w/b 29/04/13 – date tbc</b>   |
| <b><u>Scoping phase 2</u></b><br><br>Judith Tait<br>Joan Lafferty<br>Jacqui Rennie<br>Trish Gillespie<br>Isobel Dumigan<br>John Brown (ES)<br>Young Inspector/s   | <b><u>Scoping phase 3</u></b><br><br>Judith Tait<br>Joan Lafferty<br>Jacqui Rennie/HMICS Secondee<br>Trish Gillespie<br>Isobel Dumigan<br>Ruth Swanston (HIS)<br>John Brown (ES)<br>Linda Connelly<br>Helen Happer<br>Paul Silk<br>Alisdair Dawson   | <b><u>Core/Proportionate phase</u></b><br><br>Judith Tait<br>Joan Lafferty<br>HMICS Secondee<br>Trish Gillespie<br>Isobel Dumigan<br>Ruth Swanston (HIS)<br>John Brown (ES)<br>Linda Connelly<br>Helen Happer<br>Paul Silk<br>Alasdair Dawson<br>Young Inspector/s   | <b><u>Reporting findings</u></b><br><br>Judith Tait<br>Joan Lafferty<br>Other members of the team - tbc  |
| <b><u>Activities and requirements</u></b><br><br>Reading documentary evidence and background material you provide that will provide us with evidence of the impact of collaborative leadership and partnership working on improving the wellbeing of children and young people.<br><br>Meeting with strategic leaders/strategic groupings around:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The ICSP and position statements</li> <li>○ Self-evaluation and improvement</li> <li>○ Corporate parenting</li> </ul> | <b><u>Activities and requirements</u></b><br><br>Review of practice by reading children’s records to give us evidence of the impact of services on the wellbeing of children and their families, and the effectiveness of key processes in assessing and planning for children.<br><br>This as you know is likely to be the paper and electronic records for a sample of approximately 85 children. We will need an inspection base which can accommodate all of the team. | <b><u>Activities and requirements</u></b><br><br>This week will include a range of meetings with staff – both around the children in the sample and around key groupings/processes e.g. early screening groups etc.<br><br>We would want as far as possible to see people in their work base rather than for them to come to us but a balance is probably needed.<br><br>I will identify the “teams around the child” we will want to bring together once we have agreed the case sample. We will be mindful of the geography and may need | <b><u>Activities and requirements</u></b><br><br>We have yet to agree a date for reporting findings and I would suggest Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> May if you can arrange for Community Planning partners to be available that day.<br><br>We don’t need an inspection base that week. We will come to you at an agreed date, meeting place and time. |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Involving young people in service development (across services).</li> </ul> <p>In addition to attending discussions/meetings, we will need an inspection base that will house us for the 3 days – to read material and to have team discussions.</p> <p>I will work on a list of actual activities and suggested inspectors for these.</p> | <p>As we are looking at lead professional files/named persons in the main a venue where we can access health, education and social work electronic records in one place.</p> <p>Enough of our team have experience of accessing SEMIS, but it might be helpful to have a briefing on the social work system you use at the start of the week (we are familiar with the systems in use this but just need a briefing on your particular system).</p> | <p>to base inspectors in different areas.<br/>We will identify a sample of children and families / carers we may wish to follow up during scoping week 3.</p> <p>We will follow up on potential examples of good practice that we have identified in the scoping phases.</p> <p>I will work on a full list of activities around an inspector timetable as we go and get this in place soon but this will be need to remain flexible until we complete the case file reading and consider what else we might need to see/seek.</p> |  |
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