

To: Education and Children's Services Policy Board

On: 1 November 2018

Report by: Director of Children's Services

**Heading: Joint Inspection of Services for Children and Young People
in Need of Care and Protection**

1. Summary

- 1.1. The Care Inspectorate have produced a revised model of inspection "joint inspection of services for children and young people in need of care and protection" focussing on children and young people in need of protection and those who are subject to corporate parenting responsibilities.
- 1.2. Each inspection will produce a published report answering five key questions:
 1. How good is the partnership at recognising and responding when children and young people need protection?
 2. How good is the partnership at helping children and young people who have experienced abuse and neglect stay safe, healthy and well and recover from their experiences?
 3. How good is the partnership at maximising the wellbeing of children and young people who are looked after?
 4. How good is the partnership at enabling care experienced young people to succeed in their transition to adulthood?
 5. How good is collaborative leadership?
- 1.3. A revised quality improvement framework guidance "A quality framework for children and young people in need of care and protection" was published in July 2018 by the Care Inspectorate to support partner's local self-evaluation.
- 1.4. The revised model commenced in August 2018 with Argyll and Bute and Fife being the first areas to be subject to inspection. The model continues to provide a 12 week notification period prior to onsite activity.
- 1.5. The revised quality improvement framework will be used for the purposes of Renfrewshire Child Protection Committee self-evaluation.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. The Education and Children's Services Policy Board is asked to note the contents of the report.
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3. Background

- 3.1. In 2017, the Scottish Government's child protection improvement programme set out a vision for a child protection system in Scotland that places the wellbeing of children at the heart of everything it does. As part of this review, Scottish Ministers asked the Care Inspectorate to work with scrutiny partners to develop a revised model of inspection that takes a more focused look at vulnerable children and young people. Ministers wanted inspections to take account of the experiences and outcomes of children and young people in need of protection and those who are subject to corporate parenting responsibilities.
- 3.2. The Care Inspectorate have responded with a revised inspection model focussing on the "joint inspection of services for children and young people in need of care and protection". This replaces the previous joint inspection programme of services for children and young people in the community planning partnership area and provides for a narrower and more in-depth focus.
- 3.3. Care Inspectorate engagement with children and young people about the focus of inspections highlighted the importance of relationships. The revised approach to joint inspections will look carefully at how well the system is organised to ensure children and young people can experience continuity in their care and develop and sustain lasting relationships.
- 3.4. The revised inspection model will continue to explore how well staff are valued, supported and equipped to carry out their task. This is in recognition of the link to staff ability to provide high quality services for children and young people.
- 3.5. Assessment and planning was highlighted under the previous inspection programme as one of the areas requiring strengthening across the country. Whilst the Care Inspectorate noted that partners recognised the critical importance of achieving high standards in assessment and planning to ensure the safety of, and improve outcomes for, children and young people, they found that performance in assessment and planning was not as consistently strong across the country as it needs to be. The revised inspection will therefore focus on the extent to which improvement is being supported by robust quality assurance and high quality reflective supervision.
- 3.6. The child protection systems review, part of the Scottish Government's child protection improvement programme, identified the need for a clearer collective understanding of when child protection concerns should give rise to consideration of compulsory measures of care. The revised inspection model will consider the appropriate use of legal measures to achieve security and stability in the lives of vulnerable children.

- 3.7. The revised model will continue to evaluate the effectiveness of collaborative leadership, including leadership of the child protection committee and its relationship with chief officers, and seek to identify any barriers that impact on continued improved performance. Crucially, it will look at how well leaders can demonstrate what difference they are, together, making to the lives of children in need of protection and those for whom they are corporate parents.
- 3.8. The Care Inspectorate will carry out a minimum of five joint inspections across the country each year, reporting publicly on the findings for each community planning partnership area. Their approach continues to be based on self-evaluation using the European Foundation for Quality Management (EFQM) model. The development of methodology and delivery of inspections will continue to be in partnership with partners in Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland, Healthcare Improvement Scotland and Education Scotland. Young inspection volunteers will continue to play an important role in helping the Care Inspectorate to engage with children and young people as part of inspections. They have strengthened the role of young inspection volunteers in providing support and challenge to leaders about the extent to which children, young people and their families get the right help, at the right time to ensure their safety, support good health and wellbeing and improve their life chances.
- 3.9. A revised quality improvement framework guidance "A quality framework for children and young people in need of care and protection" was published in July 2018 to support partners to evaluate their own performance. This has been refreshed to orientate it towards outcomes for the most vulnerable children and to ensure it was relevant for the current context in which services for children and young people are delivered. Revised quality indicators have been produced (Appendix 1) which both reflect the learning from the previous inspection programme as well as the Scottish Government's child protection improvement programme.
- 3.10. Each inspection will result in a published report which will seek to answer the following questions.
1. How good is the partnership at recognising and responding when children and young people need protection?
 2. How good is the partnership at helping children and young people who have experienced abuse and neglect stay safe, healthy and well and recover from their experiences?
 3. How good is the partnership at maximising the wellbeing of children and young people who are looked after?
 4. How good is the partnership at enabling care experienced young people to succeed in their transition to adulthood?
 5. How good is collaborative leadership?
- 3.11. The revised inspection process (Appendix 2) will be of a similar footprint of that of the previous model. The 12 week notification period prior to onsite activity has been retained and in addition to reviewing policies, procedures and children's records, they will continue to make use of surveys and direct contact with children, families and staff. Areas of particular interest will continue to be guided in part by the contents of the self-evaluation produced by the area.

- 3.12. The new joint inspections of services for children and young people in need of care and protection commenced in August 2018. Argyll and Bute and Fife areas are the first to be inspected under the revised model.
- 3.13. The revised quality improvement framework guidance will be used as the basis of self-evaluation for Renfrewshire Child Protection Committee to ensure that Renfrewshire improvement activity is appropriately collated and measured against the quality indicators.
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Implications of this report

1. Financial

None.

2. HR and Organisational Development

None.

3. Community/Council Planning

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| Our Renfrewshire is thriving | - The revised quality improvement framework will better support improvement activity in relation to vulnerable children and young people. The revised inspection model will seek to provide a more accurate picture of how well services are supporting children and young people in need of care and protection in Renfrewshire |
| Our Renfrewshire is well | - The revised quality improvement framework will support examination and strengthening of work to help children and young people to recover from abuse and neglect |
| Our Renfrewshire is safe | - The revised quality improvement framework will support examination and strengthening of work to help identify and support children at risk of abuse and neglect. |
| Tackling inequality, ensuring opportunities for all | - The revised quality improvement framework supports a more in depth focus on maximising the well-being of children and young people who are looked after. |

Working together to improve outcomes

- The revised quality improvement framework will support the examination of partnership and collaborative leadership in relation to strengthening support for vulnerable children and young people.

4. **Legal**
None.

5. **Property/Assets**
None.

6. **Information Technology**
None.

7. **Equality and Human Rights**

- (a) The Recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report because for example it is for noting only. If required following implementation, the actual impact of the recommendations and the mitigating actions will be reviewed and monitored, and the results of the assessment will be published on the Council's website. (Report author to arrange this).

8. **Health and Safety**
None.

9. **Procurement**
None.

10. **Risk**
None.

11. **Privacy Impact**
None.

12. **Cosla Policy Position**
None.

List of Background Papers

- (a) Background Paper 1: Care Inspectorate July 2018 "A quality framework for children and young people in need of care and protection"
www.careinspectorate.com

The foregoing background paper will be retained within children's services for inspection by the public for the prescribed period of four years from the date of the

meeting. The contact officer within the service is Belinda McEwan, Child Protection Advisor, 0141 618 3483, belinda.mcewan@renfrewshire.gov.uk

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2. The quality indicators

What key outcomes have we achieved?	How well do we meet the needs of our stakeholders?	How good is our delivery of services for children, young people and families?	How good is our operational management?	How good is our leadership?
1. Key performance outcomes	2. Impact on children, young people and families	5. Delivery of key processes	6. Policy, service development and legal measures	9. Leadership and direction
1.1 Improvements in the safety, wellbeing and life chances of vulnerable children and young people.	2.1 Impact on children and young people.	5.1 Recognition and response to initial concerns. 5.2 Assessing risk and need. 5.3 Care planning, managing risk and effective intervention. 5.4 Involving individual children, young people and families.	6.1 Policies, procedures and legal measures.	9.1 Vision, values and aims. 9.2 Leadership of strategy and direction. 9.3 Leadership of people and partnerships. 9.4 Leadership of improvement and change.
	2.2 Impact on families.		6.2 Planning and improving services.	
			6.3 Participation of children, young people, families and other stakeholders.	
			6.4 Performance management and quality assurance.	
			6.5 Securing improvement through self-evaluation	
	3. Impact on staff		7. Management and support to staff	
	3.1 Impact on staff		7.1 Recruitment, deployment and joint working.	
			7.2 Workforce development and support.	
	4. Impact on the community		8. Resources and capacity building	
	4.1 Impact on the community		8.1 Management of resources.	
			8.2 Commissioning arrangements.	
10: What is our capacity for improvement?				
Global judgement based on an evaluation of the framework of quality indicators				

Appendix 2: Joint Inspection of services for children and young people in need of care and protection – revised inspection process.

