

To: Education and Children Policy Board

On: 19 January 2017

Report by: Director of Children's Services

Heading: Changes to Education Scotland Inspection Model

1. Summary

- 1.1. Education Scotland has introduced a number of changes to the way it inspects education establishments and also how it reports its findings to parents.
 - 1.2. This report highlights some of the changes which have already been made to inspections and some changes due to be made from January 2017.
 - 1.3. The changes to the letter to parents has an impact on the way Children's Services' reports inspection findings to the education and children policy board.
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2. Recommendations

- 2.1. Education and Children Policy Board is asked to note the changes to Education Scotland inspection models and changes to the reporting format of these inspections to this board.
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3. Background

- 3.1. Since 2006 Education Scotland has used an inspection model which was based around evaluations of five quality indicators from its self-evaluation documents How Good is Our School? (3) for primary and secondary and Child at the Centre for early learning and childcare.
- 3.2. In 2016, Education Scotland revised these documents and in August 2016 began inspections using four quality indicators from the 4th edition of How Good is Our School? and Child at the Centre. Education establishments also choose a further quality indicator which is not evaluated. The four quality

indicators now used by Education Scotland relate to leadership of change; learning, teaching and assessment; raising attainment and achievement; and ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion.

- 3.3. Reports on the findings from inspections, now known as 'letters to parents' have been reduced in size and provide the strengths of the school, areas for development and the quality indicator evaluations.
- 3.4. The revised letter to parents will now form part of the reports to the Education and Children Policy Board on the inspections of our educational establishments.
- 3.5. Currently, the inspection of an establishment is announced a few weeks before the inspection. A typical inspection commences on the Monday afternoon with the sharing of findings taking place on the Friday morning. Education Scotland has now advised that from January 2016 it will be introducing short-notice inspections and also a reduction in the number of days used for inspections for some establishments.
- 3.6. Reports to the Education and Policy Board on inspections from January 2017 will indicate whether the establishment was short notice and/or shorter in duration.

Implications of this report

1. **Financial Implications**
None.
2. **HR and Organisational Development Implications**
None.
3. **Community Plan/Council Plan Implications**

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| Children and Young People | - Education Scotland inspections provide external quality assurance for the Council and parents on education provision. |
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4. **Legal Implications**
None.
5. **Property/Assets Implications**
None.
6. **Information Technology Implications**
None.
7. **Equality and Human Rights Implications**
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.

- 8. **Health and Safety Implications**
None.
 - 9. **Procurement Implications**
None.
 - 10. **Risk Implications**
None.
 - 11. **Privacy Impact**
None.
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List of Background Papers

- (a) none

Children's Services
TMcE
7 December 2016

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