

ANGUS COUNCIL

SOCIAL WORK AND HEALTH COMMITTEE.....11 NOVEMBER 2010  
NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE.....18 NOVEMBER 2010  
EDUCATION COMMITTEE.....25 NOVEMBER 2010  
STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE.....7 DECEMBER 2010

JOINT INSPECTION OF SERVICES TO PROTECT CHILDREN IN ANGUS

JOINT REPORT BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE, THE DIRECTORS OF SOCIAL WORK AND HEALTH, EDUCATION AND NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

**ABSTRACT**

This report advises elected members of the forthcoming Joint Inspection of Services to Protect Children in the Angus area.

**1. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the Committees:-

- (i) note the contents of this report;
- (ii) instruct the relevant Directors to report to the respective committees at a future date on the outcome of the full inspection.

**2. BACKGROUND**

HM Inspectorate of Education (HMIE) published a report on the joint inspection of services to protect children and young people in Angus in February 2007. Working together, services within Angus Council area prepared an inter-agency action plan indicating how they would address the main points for action identified in the original HMIE inspection report [www.hmie.gov.uk/ViewEstablishment.aspx?id=11840&type=12](http://www.hmie.gov.uk/ViewEstablishment.aspx?id=11840&type=12)

HMIE Inspectors revisited the Angus Council area in October 2008 to assess the extent to which services were continuing to improve the quality of their work to protect children and young people, and to evaluate progress made in response to the main points for action highlighted in the original report.

The HMIE Follow Through Inspection Report, published in February 2009 [www.hmie.gov.uk/ViewEstablishment.aspx?id=11840&type=12](http://www.hmie.gov.uk/ViewEstablishment.aspx?id=11840&type=12) highlighted that the Angus Executive Group for Child Protection and the Angus Child Protection Committee had taken very effective action to implement the main points for action arising from the full inspection. The report noted that through the strong leadership of the Angus Child Protection Committee, services had continued to work well together and were active and productive in improving the provision for children in need of protection.

As a result of the effective performance shown by services in the Angus Council area in taking forward improvements, HMIE indicated they would make no further visits in relation to the 2007 inspection.

### **3. CURRENT POSITION**

Services in Angus are due to be inspected in January 2011 as part of the second round of HMle joint inspections of child protection services. Chief Officers are awaiting formal notification of the full arrangements for this inspection which is to commence on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2011 and will take place over a period of two weeks.

### **4. THE INSPECTION PROCESS**

The inspection process will involve Inspectors looking at the services provided by health, the police, the Council and the Children's Reporter as well as services provided by voluntary and independent organisations. To find out how good services are at protecting children and keeping them safe inspectors will read a sample of children's files held by these services. Inspectors will also talk to a number of children, parents and carers to listen to their views about the services they have received. They will also speak to the staff who work with children, parents and carers and to managers who are responsible for the provision of services.

Inspectors will evaluate the impact of services on children and families by addressing the key questions:

- How well are the needs of children and families met?
- How good is the management and delivery of services?
- How good is leadership and direction?
- How are services improving?

Inspectors will give oral feedback on their findings to the Chief Officers of the Services inspected in Angus and to the Chair of the Angus Child Protection Committee at the end of the two week inspection period. A draft report will be issued soon after the inspection with the final report expected to be published within 12 weeks of the end of the inspection.

### **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no financial implications arising out of the recommendation within this report. The costs associated with facilitating the inspection will be met from existing revenue budgets.

### **6. HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS**

There are no Human Rights implications arising as a result of the recommendations contained in this report.

### **7. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

The issues dealt with in this report have been the subject of consideration from an equalities perspective (as required by legislation). An [equalities impact assessment](#) is not required.

### **8. SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT**

The Inspection of service to protect children in Angus will help contribute to the following outcomes as set out in the Angus Single Outcome agreement.

- National Outcome 8: We have improved the life chances for children, young people and families at risk.
- Local Outcome - Safe: Children and young people in Angus will be protected from abuse, neglect and harm by others at home, at school and in the community.

**9. CONSULTATION**

The Director of Corporate Services, Head of Finance and Head of Law and Administration has been consulted in the preparation of this report.

**10. CONCLUSION**

This report informs Elected Members of the forthcoming joint inspection of services to protect children in Angus by HMle. Elected members will be advised in due course of the outcome of this inspection and of any improvement actions identified as necessary.

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**NOTE:** No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above report.

**SW&H/RP/TA**