

ANGUS COUNCIL

CHILDREN AND LEARNING COMMITTEE – 20TH SEPTEMBER 2016

CARE INSPECTORATE INSPECTION OF FOSTERING SERVICE

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 As a minimum, the Care Inspectorate conduct annual unannounced inspections for social work registered services for children and young adults. Other services such as pre-school centres receive a minimum frequency of inspection based on an intelligence-led risk assessment and previous performance.
- 1.2 The inspector evaluates registered services using a framework of quality themes linked to the National Care Standards:
- Quality of care and support
 - Quality of environment
 - Quality of staffing
 - Quality of management and leadership
- 1.3 Angus Council Fostering Service was inspected on 27 April 2016. The inspection report was published in July 2016 and can be found at:
<http://www.careinspectorate.com/index.php/care-services>

2. SUMMARY OF INSPECTION OUTCOME

2.1 What the service does well

- It was noted that children's health needs were appropriately addressed and foster carers were supported to provide good quality, safe and nurturing care to the children living with them.
- Due to the quality of supervision, training and close working relationships staff are equipped to confidently provide the necessary practical and emotional support to children, young people and their families.
- Staff at the agency were professional and motivated in their work. Some staff were sampled and it was noted they all were appropriately registered with the Scottish Social Services Council.
- Staff throughout the agency noted that supervision was regular, fully recorded and of a good quality. Appropriate levels of direction, guidance and reflection supported staff to feel confident in their work.

2.2 What the service could do better

- There is a need to develop procedures to monitor the quality of externally provided fostering placements for children.
- The agency should continue to support staff through the ongoing changes in relation to agile working.
- All staff should be reminded of the importance of the consistency of information and the quality of communication with service users, ensuring that requests for

information are responded to and the expectations of foster carers in relation to communication are managed.

2.3 What the service has done since the last inspection

- The agency has continued to consult with foster carers and used the information gathered to influence change throughout the service.
- A review of finance and skill levels has been carried out and a report is being produced with a plan of action.
- A respite fostering scheme is also being developed to provide short-term care for children living within their own families and within fostering families.
- Additional pre-approval training has been introduced for foster carers to support them being better prepared before children come to live with them.

3. CONCLUSIONS

- 3.1 The inspection noted that Angus Council remain committed to recruiting and supporting a wide range of foster carers to meet the needs of children and young people, and where possible keep children in their own community.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 It is recommended that the fostering service should review how they monitor children's placements with external agencies to ensure that issues with quality are addressed promptly.

5. REQUIREMENTS

- 5.1 There were no requirements from this inspection.

6. INSPECTION GRADES

Quality of care and support	Grade 5 – very good
Quality of environment	Not applicable
Quality of staffing	Grade 5 – very good
Quality of management and leadership	Not applicable