

**ANGUS COUNCIL**

**CHILDREN AND LEARNING COMMITTEE – 20<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2016**

**CARE INSPECTORATE INSPECTION OF ANGUS COUNCIL ADOPTION SERVICES**

**1. BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 As a minimum, the Care Inspectorate conducts 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 Adoption Services were 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**

- The quality of individualised planning for children.
- The preparation of prospective adoptive families and the support available post adoption all contribute to good quality, nurturing care for children and their adoptive families.
- 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 (adoptive and birth).

**2.2 What the service could do better**

- The service needs to develop a clear policy and procedure when children are being placed in adoptive families out with Angus. This should clearly detail for families the arrangements for support and the frequency and timing of visits.
- The agency should continue to support staff through the ongoing changes in relation to agile working.

**2.3 What the service has done since the last inspection**

- Post adoption support services have continued to be developed, with the development of the Embrace group for adoptive families.
- A whole service review of permanence is currently ongoing. In addition, the agency is currently consulting with adoptive families and the quality of children's life story books.

### **3. CONCLUSION**

- 3.1 The inspection identified that Angus Council continues to provide a valuable resource to children in need of adoption in the local area. It found that the staff team and the team leader were knowledgeable, skilled and motivated to achieve positive outcomes for all service users and that the agency was committed to continued improvement and developing the service.

### **4. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.1 It was recommended that the agency should develop a clear policy and procedure for when children are being placed out with Angus to support a clearer understanding of roles and responsibilities.

### **5. REQUIREMENTS**

- 5.1 There were no requirements from this inspection.

### **6. INSPECTION GRADES**

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