

Education, Children and Families Committee

10am, Tuesday, 5 March 2013

Inspection of Children's Services in Edinburgh

Item number	7.4
Report number	
Wards	All

Links

Coalition pledges	P1
Council outcomes	CO1 - CO6 , CO10 - CO15
Single Outcome Agreement	SO2 , SO3 , SO4

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Executive summary

Inspection of Children's Services in Edinburgh

Summary

- 1 To advise Members of the completion of a significant pilot inspection of services for children in Edinburgh. The inspection examined how well public services in Edinburgh work together to improve outcomes for children, especially children in need.
- 2 The inspection was a large-scale multi-agency inspection on behalf of Scottish Ministers led by the Care Inspectorate. The Care Inspectorate plans to inspect services for children across all 32 local authority areas by the end of March 2017.
- 3 In addition to the Care Inspectorate the scrutiny bodies involved were Education Scotland, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary for Scotland, Healthcare Improvement Scotland and Audit Scotland.
- 4 The feedback from inspectors was positive. They highlighted the vision for children's services in Edinburgh, the partnership approach, child protection services, and the commitment to early intervention as particular strengths. The full inspection findings will provide a valuable agenda for continued improvement. It is expected the report will be published in March. The full findings of the inspection will be presented to the Committee in May.

Recommendations

To recommend that the Education, Children and Families Committee:

- 1 Note that this major inspection has been completed and that the findings will be presented in full at the next meeting.

Measures of success

The inspection was an evaluative inspection based on an established EFQM quality framework. The full findings will include evaluations on a six point scale.

Financial impact

No financial implications.

Equalities impact

There is no equalities impact as a result of this report.

Sustainability impact

There are no adverse environmental impacts arising from this report.

Consultation and engagement

The inspection activity included extensive engagement with staff and service users.

Background reading / external references

[Report to Education Children and Families Committee 9 October 2012.](#)

Inspection of Children's Services in Edinburgh

1. Background

- 1.1 Scottish Ministers asked the Care Inspectorate to develop a new model for the scrutiny of and improvement of services for children and young people designed around:
- Getting it right for every child
 - a strong focus on children and young people
 - joining up scrutiny.

The Care Inspectorate developed a model for inspecting services for children which aims to:

- improve outcomes for all children and young people
 - provide independent assurance about the effectiveness of services for children and particularly the most vulnerable children and young people
 - build capacity for improvement.
- 1.2 The Care Inspectorate plans to inspect services for children across all 32 local authority areas by the end of March 2017.
- 1.3 The Care Inspectorate chose Edinburgh and Orkney as pilot sites. The inspection in Edinburgh has now been completed.

2. Main report

- 2.1 Inspection activity in Edinburgh began on 12 November 2012 and completed on 30 January 2013 when inspectors gave verbal feedback to the Children's Partnership. The process will conclude with the publication of a report for Scottish Ministers, due in March 2013.
- 2.2 In addition to the Care Inspectorate the scrutiny bodies involved were Education Scotland, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary for Scotland, Healthcare

Improvement Scotland and Audit Scotland. The team also included a young inspector.

- 2.3 The inspection team collected evidence by examining background information, reading 114 case files, attending meetings and engaging with children, young people, parents and staff from all relevant agencies.
- 2.4 The inspection focussed on services for children in need including child protection, family support services, services for children with disabilities and children who are Looked After. This included evaluation of progress in child protection, implementation of Getting it Right for Every Child and Corporate Parenting of Looked After Children.
- 2.5 The feedback from inspectors was positive. They highlighted the vision for children's services in Edinburgh, the partnership approach, child protection services, and the commitment to early intervention as particular strengths. The full inspection findings will provide a valuable agenda for continued improvement. It is expected the report will be published in March. The full findings of the inspection will be presented to the Committee in May.

3. Recommendations

To recommend that the Education, Children and Families Committee:

- 3.1 Note that this major inspection has been completed and that the findings will be presented in full at the next meeting.

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Links

Coalition pledges	P1 Increase support for vulnerable children, including help for families so that fewer go into care
Council outcomes	CO1. Our children have the best start in life, are able to make and sustain relationships and are ready to succeed CO2. Our children and young people are successful learners, confident individuals and responsible citizens making a positive contribution to their communities CO3. Our children and young people at risk, or with a disability, have improved life chances CO4. Our children and young people are physically and emotionally healthy

CO5. Our children and young people are safe from harm or fear of harm, and do not harm others within their communities
CO6. Our children and young people's outcomes are not undermined by poverty and inequality
CO10. Improved health and reduced inequalities
CO11. Preventative and personalised support in place
CO12. Edinburgh's carers are supported
CO13. People are supported to live at home
CO14. Communities have the capacity to help support people
CO15. The public is protected

Single Outcome Agreement

SO2. Edinburgh's citizens experience improved health and wellbeing, with reduced inequalities in health
SO3. Edinburgh's children and young people enjoy their childhood and fulfil their potential
SO4 Edinburgh's communities are safer and have improved physical and social fabric

Appendices

None