

DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE - 14TH FEBRUARY 2011

REPORT ON: JOINT FOLLOW-THROUGH INSPECTION OF SERVICES TO PROTECT CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL AREA

REPORT BY: CHIEF EXECUTIVE

REPORT NO: 49 - 2011

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide Committee members the outcome of the Joint Follow-through inspection of services to protect children and young people in the Dundee City Council area, conducted by HMle. The purpose of the visit by HMle was to inspect the progress made to improve services against the initial inspection that was reported by HMle in June 2009. The report sets out the actions that will be taken re taken in response to the HMle report.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Policy and Resources Committee:

- 2.1 Note the content of the HMle report which states that progress across the seven Main Points for Action identified in the original HMle report has been rated:
- Very Good in respect of: Providing clear leadership and direction to the work of the Children & Young Person's Protection Committee (CYPPC)
 - Very Good in respect of: Introducing a systematic approach to self-evaluation across services
 - Very Good in respect of: Reviewing and updating policies and procedures to guide staff in their work to protect children
 - Good in respect of: Improving the actions taken in immediate response to concerns about children
 - Good in respect of: Improving the processes for joint planning to meet children's individual needs
 - Satisfactory in respect of: Improving the processes of assessment of risks and needs and the system for jointly assessing the risks associated with parental substance misuse
 - Satisfactory in respect of: Improving the joint planning of integrated children's services to take full account of the needs of children at risk of harm, abuse and neglect.
- 2.2 Note the comments in the report which highlight that:
- leadership has resulted in very positive and encouraging progress in driving forward improvements in performance
 - significant developments have taken place in the early recognition, immediate response and initial risk assessment of concerns about children and risk of abuse or neglect
 - improved child protection procedures, information-sharing and standardised formats are having a positive impact on the effectiveness of key processes

- effective co-ordination of multi-agency groups has created a successful model for the delivery of service improvements
- services to protect children are being strengthened due to better integrated systems.

2.3 Requests the Chief Officers Group of Dundee City Council, NHS Tayside and Tayside Police to ensure that the Children and Young Persons Protection Committee notes the points for continuous improvement made in the report and that it delivers on these this via the implementation of its Business and Action Plan.

2.4 Requests the Chief Officers Group and Children and Young Person's Protection Group to ensure that all points in the report relating to continuous improvement are implemented.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 There are no financial implications from any matter covered in the report.

4.0 MAIN TEXT

4.1 In Report 362-2009 the Chief Executive reported to the Committee on the Joint Inspection of Services to Protect Children and Young People in the Dundee City Council area, carried out by HMle in February and March 2009. One outcome of that inspection was a decision, by Ministers, that HMle should conduct a Follow-through inspection. An Interim Follow-through inspection was carried out in November 2009 and was the subject of Report Number 158-2010. The full Follow-through inspection took place in December 2010, with HMle publishing its report on 3 February. This report relates to that Follow-through inspection. The full Follow-through inspection was carried out in order to assess progress made in relation to the seven Main Points for Action identified in the HMle report published in June 2009 and reported to Committee in Report No 362-2009. The findings in this latest HMle report build upon the findings of the interim Follow-through inspection and highlights that significant, positive progress has been made in addressing all of the Main Points for Action originally identified by HMle.

4.2 The HMle report helpfully points to areas where attention could be focused in order to best meet the already established goal of ongoing, continuous improvement of services. The Children and Young Persons Protection Committee (CYPPC) will identify specific actions to be carried out in relation to points made by HMle. These will be set out in the CYPPC's Action Plan. In addition, the CYPPC will continue to avail itself of the support, advice and guidance provided by the HMle Link Inspector in order to assess progress and identify other areas for improvement. The Chief Officer (Care & Protection) Group, chaired by the Council's Chief Executive, will continue to inform itself of the progress made by the CYPPC in implementing its Business and Action Plan, and will intervene if necessary to ensure the plan remain on schedule.

5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

This Report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Sustainability, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Anti-Poverty, Equality Impact Assessment and Risk Management.

The major issues identified are:

5.1 The CYPPC's Business and Action Plan support the policy aims of "Getting it Right for Every Child" to ensure that children receive the help they need when they need it.

5.2 An Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out and will be made available on the Council website <http://www.dundee.gov.uk/equanddiv/equimpact/>.

6.0 CONSULTATIONS

6.1 The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Support Services), Director of Finance and senior representatives from NHS Tayside and Tayside Police have been consulted in preparation of this report.

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Committee Report 362-2009
- Committee Report 158-2010
- HMle Report: Joint Follow-through inspection of services to protect children and young people in the Dundee City Council area - February 2010.
- Equality Impact Assessment

David K Dorward
Chief Executive

DATE: 10th February 2011