



Fife Child Protection Committee

Bullet Point Briefing **Inspections – Voluntary Sector**

Introduction/Background

The following bullet point report has been prepared for Councillor Brett and/or Councillor Chapman, in advance of the Voluntary Sector Forum meeting on Friday 14th March 2008.

Question and Answer Session – Question 6

“How can the Voluntary Sector play it’s part in the inspection of Children’s Services? (e.g. Child Protection Inspection)”

Advice and Response

- HMle Services for Children Unit (SFCU), Livingston have announced they plan to carry out the joint Inspection of Children’s Services – Child Protection in October and November 2008. Exact dates unknown;
- HMle SFCU will do so as part of a three year Inspection Programme due to be completed by end of March 2009;
- HMle SFCU will carry out the Inspection using their Inspection Tool - *Self Evaluation and Quality Indicators Framework: “How well are children and young people protected and their needs met?”*
- HMle SFCU will carry out their Inspection across all services/agencies in the public, private and **voluntary** sectors across Fife – particularly those services and agencies which provide a child protection service and those who are funded and/or commissioned to do so in the **voluntary** sector;
- HMle SFCU will adopt a variety of Inspection techniques, including deployment of Inspectors, policy/strategy examination, case file reading and audits, face to face interviews/meetings, focus groups with service providers/service users – including children and families and will examine all service level provisions from strategic, to tactical to operational with the focus on improved outcomes for service users;
- HMle SFCU will “track cases” across all services/agencies and will undoubtedly engage with voluntary sector providers as and when necessary;

“child protection is everyone’s job...it’s our job”

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- Alistair Gaw Fife Social Work Service will be the Fife strategic lead for this Inspection. He currently chairs the Fife Child Protection Committee – Quality Assurance Sub Committee. He will be supported by the CPC Support Team;
- Ross Drummond, CPC Lead Officer has already engaged directly with the Voluntary Sector Forum – gave a presentation to them on Wednesday 26th September 2007;
- Fife Children’s Rights Service and the Voluntary sector have representation on the Child Protection Committee, Quality Assurance Sub Committee and Training Sub Committee. Voluntary sector attendance at these meetings is good – Voluntary sector representatives must continue to feedback and engage with the their wider Voluntary sector constituents;
- Work has been underway for some time via the Quality Assurance Sub Committee – Voluntary sector are actively involved in this work and must continue to be so. Work includes:-
 - Development of a Self Evaluation and Quality Assurance approach;
 - Examination of previous Inspection Reports – lessons learned from elsewhere;
 - Inter-Agency Case File Audits;
 - Evaluation of Child Protection Case Conferences;
 - Preparations for Inspection – focussing on self evaluation, quality assurance and better outcomes.
- Further work is planned in the coming months in advance of the Inspections – Voluntary Sector will be included and should encourage all staff to participate. This will include:-
 - Inter-Agency Road Shows – Awareness raising events for staff;
 - Briefings about the forthcoming Inspection process;
 - Ensuring the Children’s Charter, Framework for Standards, Self Evaluation, Quality Assurance, What to do if Worried about a Child underpins practice, is embedded and evidenced into every day practice;
 - CPC produced materials are widely circulated to all staff;
 - Children’s case files are robust, complete and ready for Inspection;
 - Ongoing development of a self evaluation/quality assurance process across the Voluntary sector;

Headline Message – Voluntary Sector

Keep engaged with CPC and the public and private sectors. Maintain representation at CPC and Sub Committees. Ensure their work is compliant with national and local policy. Ensure their policies, procedures and case files are fit for purpose. Ensure engagement at the events in the coming months. Ensure their representatives feedback to their wider voluntary sector constituents. Ensure they understand the inspection process and tool.