



Inspection News

January 2010

Announcing...

2nd Joint Inspection of Services to Protect Children and Young People taking place in April 2010.

As many of you will remember, from 2005 to 2009, HMle undertook a joint inspection of services to protect children and young people in every area of Scotland. The results of this first round of inspection established, for the first time, a benchmark of child protection standards in Scotland.

The inspection report for North Ayrshire was published in May 2008 and can be viewed or downloaded by visiting the general public page of our website.

In February 2009, the Minister for Children and Early Years asked HMle to lead a second round of child protection inspections, beginning in April 2009.



In April 2009, HMle launched their revised model of inspection, alongside a new guide to self evaluation, *How Well Do We Protect Children and Meet Their Needs?*

You can access this document at www.hmle.gov.uk under HMle publications or by visiting the professionals page of our website.

About the new self evaluation guide

The guide covers a total of twenty five quality indicators and follows the following six high level questions:

1. What key outcomes have we achieved?

2. How well do we meet the needs of our stakeholders?

3. How good is our delivery of services for children and families in need of protection?

4. How good is our operational management?

5. How good is our leadership?

6. What is our capacity for improvement?

Of the twenty five quality indicators, six will be evaluated on the six point scale (unsatisfactory to excellent). These are:

QI 1.1 Improvements in performance

QI 2.1 Children are listened to, understood and respected

QI 2.2 Children benefit from strategies to minimise harm

QI 2.3 Children are helped by the actions taken in immediate response to concerns

QI 2.4 Children's needs are met

QI 5.5 Improvement through self evaluation

What will this inspection look like?

Each inspection will comprise of three phases conducted in two weeks over a three week time period. This is represented below:

Scoping Phase	Core Phase	Gap	Proportionate Phase
19th-20th April	21st -23rd April		3rd -7th May
Week 1		Week 2	Week 3
Two days	Three days	Five days	Five days

Scoping phase

This is where the inspection team will review the joint self evaluation; the post inspection action plan and progress reports; all relevant documentation; good practice evidence and service user feedback.

Core phase

This is the case record reading stage of inspection. A sample of cases will be identified from children on the child protection register or recently deregistered and children for whom there have been significant concerns but they have not been placed on the register.

Proportionate phase

All children and families selected in the case record sample will be invited for interview.

Similarly, interviews of all staff involved in supporting these children and families will be organised. In addition, senior managers will be interviewed and there will be dialogue with Chief Officers and Child Protection Committee representatives about improvement and good practice.



What's happening now?

As with the previous joint inspection, North Ayrshire Child Protection Committee is leading the preparation and planning for the forthcoming inspection. Further newsletters will be circulated to ensure all staff are kept apprised of developments and progress.

Particular support will be available to staff who are likely to be directly involved in inspection activity. This will be organised following identification of the case file sample.

In the meantime, if you have any queries regarding the inspection, please contact Jillian Russell, Child Protection Lead Officer, on 01294 835659 or jillianrussell@north-ayrshire.gov.uk

