



# Inspection News

May 2010

## Inspection findings...

HMIE Inspection finds that children and young people in North Ayrshire are protected and have their needs met.

North Ayrshire Chief Officers and the Child Protection Committee are delighted to announce that following our second joint inspection of services to protect children and young people in North Ayrshire, inspectors were confident that children and young people are protected and have their needs met.

A multi agency team of ten inspectors, led by HMIE, visited North Ayrshire during the weeks commencing 19th April and 17th May in order to conduct the inspection of services provided by North Ayrshire Council, NHS Ayrshire and Arran, SCRA, Strathclyde Police and our voluntary sector partners.




Inspectors evaluated services against the quality improvement framework, How Well Do We Protect Children and Meet Their Needs? and measured progress since the last joint inspection against our improvement plan.

**Our inspection report will be published in September 2010.**

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## Inspection Activity

The inspection team undertook a range of inspection activity which included:

1. A review of multi agency self evaluation material.
  2. Reading of background documents such as the NACPC Annual Report and Business Plan, the Integrated Children's Services Plan and the Single Outcome Agreement.
  3. Consideration of NACPC minutes and minutes of Chief Officer Group meetings.
  4. Analysis of agency case files for 32 children in need of protection.
  5. Meeting with multi agency groups of staff involved with each of these children.
  6. Speaking with a number of children and their parents or carers.
  7. Conducting focus groups of staff from different agencies.
  8. Ongoing dialogue with Chief Officers and Child Protection Committee representatives.
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# Overall Findings

Overall, inspectors found evidence of significant improvements since the previous inspection, examples of good practice and commitment to continuous improvement. They will make no further visits to North Ayrshire in connection with this round of inspections.



## Key Strengths

Inspectors identified the following key strengths in North Ayrshire:

1. Trusting relationships between children and staff and children feel confident to seek help when they need it.
2. Timely response by staff to children who need help.
3. Help and support given to families at an early stage.
4. Strong leadership and teamwork to improve services to protect children and young people.



The inspectors reported very positively on the relationships staff have with children, the help and support provided by all agencies and the leadership and direction provided by strategic leaders and operational managers.

Inspectors were also satisfied with our progress in relation to the seven key themes identified at national level: medical examinations, management of sex offenders, internet safety, child trafficking, children missing from education, LGBT young people and young runaways.

## Areas for development

Inspectors have identified the following areas for further development:

1. Continue to improve assessments of risk and need, focusing more on improving outcomes for children.
2. Strengthen approaches to reviewing the quality of services and more fully involve staff, children and families.

These areas will be incorporated and addressed through our business planning processes.

**North Ayrshire Chief Officers and the Child Protection Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank all staff working in services in North Ayrshire for the excellent work being undertaken to support and protect children and young people.**

If you have any queries regarding the inspection, please contact Jillian Russell, Child Protection Lead Officer, on 01294 324737 or [jillianrussell@north-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:jillianrussell@north-ayrshire.gov.uk)