

CHILD PROTECTION

1. PURPOSE

To inform the Board about:

- The nature of the inspection by HMIe¹ of Services to Protect Children and Young People in Lanarkshire,
- The preparations for the inspection within NHS Lanarkshire and their integration with other Lanarkshire agencies²,
- Overview of the annual report on child protection by NHS Lanarkshire.

2. CONTENT/SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES

2.1 The Nature of the Inspection

During this year 2 separate inspections of services to protect children will be undertaken in Lanarkshire. The first will commence in South Lanarkshire on 30 August 2010 followed by North Lanarkshire's in October/November 2010.

There are now 25 national quality indicators, seven more than the previous inspection that took place in 2008. These are shown in annexe A. The inspection itself will focus on the quality indicators with the following themes:

- Improvement in performance,
- Impact on children and families in need of protection,
- Delivery of services to children and families in need of protection.

In addition: they will consider 3 areas that the agencies in Lanarkshire consider to be good practice; review progress against the recommendations arising from their previous inspection report in 2008; and consider a number of key national cross cutting themes shown in annexe B. They will be particularly interested in the effectiveness of our self evaluation and subsequent action planning.

The inspection will be as light or as intensive as the inspectors deem necessary. This will depend on the quality of the multi-agency self evaluation, the evidence submitted to support that self-evaluation and the outcome of their review of the case files. They may inspect other quality indicators were they perceive there is variation in practice within Lanarkshire. It is therefore

¹ Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education but which includes others drawn from NHS Quality Improvement Scotland and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary

² These include social work, housing and leisure services of the Local Council, as well as the office of the Children's Reporter, Strathclyde Police and the independent Chair of the multi-agency Child Protection Committee

essential that we get the self evaluation right, provide succinct, good quality evidence and ensure staff are well briefed.

2.2 Preparation for the Inspection of Services

Preparation is well underway both from an NHS Lanarkshire and multi-agency perspective with preparations in South Lanarkshire being most advanced given the proximity of inspection. This includes the submission of the pre-inspection return document for South Lanarkshire on 24 May 2010 and briefing of Chief Officers and key contacts by the Managing Inspector and his depute on 2 June 2010.

Within NHS Lanarkshire we have completed our self assessment against all 25 quality indicators using a bottom-up, top-down approach to reinforce ownership at all levels of the organisation. This has been shared with other agencies to assist in the preparation of the multi-agency self assessments in both South and North Lanarkshire.

A draft improvement plan (linked to the self evaluation) has been produced. This is supported by the development of local self assessments and action plans across NHS Lanarkshire to reinforce the approach that child protection is everyone's business. This approach is also being used on a multi-agency basis for the quality indicators included within the inspection process.

The Inspection Team has identified 34 cases for review in South Lanarkshire. These are drawn from children who are either on the Child Protection Register now or who have been within the last 24 months. Work is already underway on a multi-agency basis to review the case files identifying within them areas of good practice and areas for improvement. Single and multi-agency sessions for staff have been arranged for later this month to brief them about the inspection process.

Three areas of multi-agency good practice have been submitted to the Inspectors. They are:

- "The Street" (Education led service)
- First Steps (Health improvement led service)
- South Lanarkshire Domestic Abuse Pilot Project (Police led service)

A brief outline of these services is detailed in annexe C.

A series of both general and more focused staff briefing sessions on a multi and single agency basis as well as information in the PULSE and staff briefing system continues to be provided to raise staff awareness of the pending inspections and to support ongoing preparation and practice improvement.

2.3 Findings of self evaluation

NHS Lanarkshire's self assessment identifies that significant progress has been made since our last inspections. In 2008 we assessed ourselves as

either good or satisfactory for all 18 quality indicators, a different perception from HMIE who rated multi-agency performance higher. For this round of inspection we have assessed 15 out of the 25 quality indicators as very good (Table 1) highlighting that the organisation should have improved its performance in 16 out of the original 18 indicators, (Table 1).

Table 1: NHS Lanarkshire Performance against HMIE Quality Indicators, 2008 & 2010

	NHS Lanarkshire Self-Assessment 2008	HMIE Multi-agency Assessment 2008		NHS Lanarkshire Self-Assessment 2010
		SL	NL	
Very Good	0	9	9	15
Good	12	5	7	9
Satisfactory	6	4	2	1
TOTAL	18	18	18	25

Good progress has also been made against the recommendations of the previous HMIE inspection report in 2008 as outlined in annexe D, however, more work is required around involvement of children in the development of policy. This has been included in our action plan.

2.4 NHS Lanarkshire Child Protection Annual Report

The NHS Lanarkshire Child Protection Annual Report (April 2009 to March 2010) is attached as annexe E. Key highlights include:

- The implementation of child protection case supervision which has been strongly welcomed by Public Health Nurses,
- Preparation for HMIE multi-agency Inspection of child protection services,
- The provision of training, advice and support to front line clinicians,
- The provision of pertinent information via the child protection website on FirstPort aimed at supporting staff and managers.

Future objectives will focus on addressing the findings arising from the HMIE child protection inspections of South and North Lanarkshire services as well as the application of key aspects of the Scottish Patient Safety methodology to child protection services:

- The SBAR³ tool is currently used by the Child Protection Unit to report on a range of child protection issues ensuring clarity around outcome and required actions,
- Work is currently underway to amend the content and presentation of the monthly child protection locality reports. The aim being to use run charts to provide data analysis and highlight action required to be taken locally,
- A proposal has been submitted to the joint Quality Assurance Group of the Child Protection Committees to develop and test out the use of care bundles on threshold and communication issues which have been identified from significant case and reflective practice reviews.

³ SBAR (Situation, Background, Action, Recommendation) is a form of standardised reporting to ensure effective communication and action

3. RECOMMENDATION

The Board is asked to note the contents of this paper.

4. FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information or clarification of any issues please contact Juliet Norman, Nurse Consultant Child Protection and Vulnerable Children or Geraldine Queen, Associate Director of Nursing, Public Health Nursing.

Anne Armstrong
Juliet Norman
Paul Wilson
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**Her Majesties Inspectorate Of Education Inspection Of Child Protection
Services: Key National Themes**

1. Medical examination
2. Management of sex offenders who may pose a risk to children
3. Helping children keep safe when using the internet
4. Child trafficking
5. Children missing from education
6. Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender young people
7. Young runaways

South Lanarkshire HMle Inspection 2010: Good Practice

Good Practice: 'The Street'

What was the identified issue?

The identified issue was the increase in the number of young people and families being adversely affected by the potentially harmful and destructive behaviour, emerging through the gang and knife culture within their social environments.

What have staff in services done together?

The Youth Learning Service and Regenfx Youth Trust developed 'The Street' pilot project, a diversionary scheme using immersive theatre targeting young people, identified by a range of agencies, involved in or on the brink of becoming involved in youth disorder and anti-social behaviour. The theatre experience is followed by an experiential workshop involving role play that helps young people explore their thoughts and feelings about what they have witnessed but also gives the opportunity to identify alternate options at crucial decision points.

What are the benefits for children/young people and families?

Young people, who are currently not involved and are on the brink of becoming involved in potentially harmful and destructive behaviour, experience first hand, in a safe environment, the consequences of their actions both for themselves and others. For young people who are involved in harmful and destructive behaviour, 'The Street' asks hard questions and engages them in realising the consequences of their actions in relation to their own local community, themselves and their families. Evaluations from the young people have been collated, indicating strongly positive views of their experience. Further evaluation will identify any changes in attitudes or behaviour. Funding is being sought to continue 'The Street' on an ongoing basis and some of the young people who experienced it this year have asked to be involved as actors next time.

Good Practice: First steps programme

What was the identified issue?

The programme targets new mums from some of the most deprived (15%) data zones to ensure that babies get off to the best possible start in life. It was identified that there was a need to support parents and children at the earliest stage to improve life chances.

What have staff in services done together?

To ensure that the programme was informed by potential clients, referral agents and partners consultation took part with vulnerable mums, Social work, and Public Health and Early Years staff. The programme is led through the South Lanarkshire Regeneration Partnership.

What are the benefits for children/young people and families?

It provides intensive one to one support to mums in their own homes to enable them to provide an environment that is nurturing, healthy, happy and stimulating. It also helps to increase the mum's confidence and programmes are tailor made for individual families. This allows individuals to set their own goals e.g. 2 women have gone to do childcare courses. Examples of activities are cookery, play, support and establishing routines, home safety etc, financial services support, local lifestyle service and sign posting to other services. The Programme has identified antenatal and post natal outcomes they are trying to achieve.

Good Practice: South Lanarkshire Domestic Abuse Pilot Project (SL DAAP)

What was the identified issue?

The perpetrator pilot scheme addresses a gap in service provision in domestic abuse. The main focus of the police response to domestic abuse is to engage with the victim, ensure their safety, ensure all child protection issues are investigated and fully investigate any incident. This project focuses on a perpetrator intervention strategy for dealing with perpetrators and reduces the levels of reoffending.

What has staff in services done together?

A joint police/social work interview is undertaken whilst the perpetrator is in the custody holding office. Prior to the interview police and social work evaluate the most suitable offenders to target. The interview addresses issues such as substance misuse, family mediation. The perpetrator may be linked in to a variety of agencies including substance misuse, mental health services or Money Matters.

What are the benefits for children/young people and families?

Perpetrators of domestic abuse are given the opportunity to address their offending behaviour and support and advice is made available while they are in custody. During this process it can be ascertained if the perpetrator needs a bail address. All information from the interview is passed to the PF, but the interview is not to obtain evidence. Early indications are that the cycle of offending behaviour is being disrupted. From the period 29.11.2009 until 06.03.2010 - of 145 perpetrator visits, 22% reoffended, a 78% success rate. The outcomes for children and families involved in domestic abuse will be improved with the lower re-offending rates.

HMIe Inspection 2008

Areas identified to be developed and overview of progress

- 1. Increase the availability of services to help overcome the longer term effects of abuse and neglect (South). Improve the availability of services to help overcome the emotional and psychological effects of abuse (North)**

Progress

- 20.8% increased investment within the CAMHS service resulting in the expansion of staff resource and capacity. There has been a 32% increase in attendance of new referrals and 6% increase in return appointments since 2008. In addition children on the child protection register requiring this service are prioritised ensuring they are able to receive the service sooner
- The establishment of a Primary Mental Health Team providing direct support for 5.4% of all mainstream schools. By August this will have expanded to 11.2%. Mental health advice for the remaining schools is provided through the local tier 3 Child and Family Clinic Service.
- The expansion of CAMHS for Accommodated Young People (CAYP) to provide direct support to all 15 Children's Houses across both North and South Lanarkshire Councils and to a proportion of children in foster care in North Lanarkshire Council as part of an ongoing pilot
- Geographical extension of the Reach-out Team to cover Hamilton, Blantyre, Motherwell, Wishaw and Bellshill Localities, as well as the Carluke area of Clydesdale.
- Expansion of the Youth Counselling Service to cover all the mainstream secondary schools (41) in Lanarkshire and additional community provision (8 sessions) for those not attending school
- The implementation of CEL16 (2009) Looked After & Accommodated Children is in progress

- 2. Ensure the involvement of all relevant staff, including medical staff, in child protection processes (South). Fully involve health practitioners in Child Protection processes (North)**

Progress

- Consideration has been given to the Initial Referral Discussion and in particular how we fully involve health practitioners in all child protection processes across Lanarkshire. This is in the process of being finalised.

- Focus has been on the overall attendances at and contribution to child protection meetings. Ensuring that reports are available prior to meetings and decisions are acted upon. This monitored through the mechanism for gathering statistics and reports submitted to Quality Assurance Sub Group
 - Training is available for staff ranging from an introduction to Child Protection at the Corporate Induction programme to a variety of Multi Agency training and post graduate training in Child protection
- 3. Develop an effective system for prioritising child protection referrals where children are affected by domestic abuse (South). Develop and implement an interagency approach to child protection referrals where children are affected by domestic abuse (North)**

Progress

- MARAC (Multi agency risk assessment conference) continues to operate in the North CHP.
 - Motherwell Domestic Abuse pilot whose aim is to progress multi agency partnership and working to improve outcomes for children and their families (commenced March 2010).
 - South Lanarkshire Domestic Abuse Pilot Project (SL DAAP). This focuses on the police response to domestic abuse. They engage with the victim, ensure their safety, ensure all child protection issues are investigated and fully investigate any incident. This project focuses on a perpetrator intervention strategy for dealing with perpetrators and to reduce the levels of re-offending. Perpetrators of domestic abuse are given the opportunity to address their offending behaviour and support and advice is made available while they are in custody. From the period 29.11.2009 until 06.03.2010 - of 145 perpetrator visits, 22% re-offended, a 78% success rate. The outcomes for children and families involved in domestic abuse will be improved with the lower re-offending rates
- 4. Improve assessment and planning to meet the needs of children and families (South) Improve the processes to assess the risk and needs of vulnerable children and planning to meet identified needs (North) (Quality Indicator 5.4 - Good)**

Progress

- There has been the introduction of the Well Being Assessment which will indicate if there are any unmet needs. If any are identified this will lead to a Single Agency Assessment which will be shared (provided consent given) with other agencies which in turn informs the Childs Plan.
- Presently reviewing the use of the Health Plan Indicator (HPI) to improve consistency of practice across Public Health Nursing. This is where Child is identified as being core, additional or intensive.
- There has been risk assessment multi agency training (level 3) for 36 public health nurses in the last year.
- Locality Planning Groups for Children's Services have been established in the North CHP and Integrated Children's Services Groups in the South CHP. These will also include sub groups such as Vulnerable Infants/Early Years which are practitioner lead with a focus on individual cases.
- GIRFEC paper testing exercise is underway and is presently being evaluated. The aim is to have a single system approach. Each agency will evaluate their contribution to the assessment and planning process and implement the recommendations.
- The Information Sharing Protocol is presently being reviewed and updated
- Introduction of the Central Point of Contact

5. Further develop self evaluation to focus on outcomes for children and improve services.(South)

Progress

- Each agency continues to monitor their record keeping within a multi agency context ensuring chronologies are comprehensive and that decisions are acted upon.
- GIRFEC paper testing exercise (as above)
- Multi agency case file audits continue to be undertaken in North and south CHPs with a focus on –
 - Consent to share information
 - Child protection paperwork
 - Agency care plan / action plan which reflects appropriate action and contribution to the overall child protection plan
 - Record of action against desired outcomes for the child

6. Adopt a strategic approach across services in the involvement of children and their families in policy development. (North)

Progress

- There is a Multi Agency group which are in the process of finalising a Lanarkshire Child Protection – Children and Young People’s Engagement and Participation Strategy
- There will be a Multi Agency review of the use of web based technology and social networking to support involvement of children and young people
- Review linkages with CHYPEN (Children and Young People’s Engagement Network)
- Implementation of “Going the Extra Mile” – A Strategy for Working With Young People
- A Youth Strategy Action Plan has been developed