

Announcing the Joint Inspection of Services for Children and Young People in Falkirk

Falkirk Community Planning Partnership has received formal notification from the Care Inspectorate that Children's Services will be inspected later this year.

This is the first of a series of newsletters and briefings to help keep you informed about the inspection and what this means for you.

What is a Joint Inspection of Services for Children and Young People?

It is a multi-agency inspection that will focus on how well services work together to improve outcomes for all children, young people and families. A team of inspectors with a range of professional backgrounds will visit Falkirk to evaluate all agencies and services working with children, young people and families.

The inspection will encompass a wide range of services working directly with children and their families, including universal provision as well as the more targeted and specialist services.

It will hold **Community Planning Partnerships** accountable for the delivery of children's services and for improving the lives of children residing within the local authority area.

Is it only children's services that are involved?

No. Adult services will be involved too because they provide services to parents and carers. There will be an emphasis on the interface between adult and children's services with an expected focus on addiction services and mental health services.

When will the inspection happen?

The inspection will be conducted over 13 days between **Monday 9th November and Friday 18th December 2015**.

The Care Inspectorate Lead for the Falkirk inspection will be Judith Tait, Strategic Inspector.

On Monday 9th November, the inspection team will arrive in Falkirk and spend 3 days here.

Initially inspectors will focus on the effectiveness of leadership and self-evaluation. This will primarily involve the Community Planning Partnership, Chief Officers and Senior Managers from all agencies. During this time, young inspectors (working with the inspection team) will also undertake activity to find out more about how well we involve children and young people in service development.

On Monday 23rd November, inspectors will begin five days of reading children's records.

These will be the Lead Professional record for the child, which is expected to be the social services record as the children involved in this part of the inspection will be amongst the most vulnerable in Falkirk. For some children, inspectors will also read records from police, education and health.

On Monday 14th December, inspectors will return to follow up on their findings so far.

This is called the core/proportionate phase and will consist of some observations of key processes and meetings with groups of staff, some of which will have more focus on individual children and the services they have received.

How Will Services Be Evaluated?

The Care Inspectorate has published a framework to self-evaluation using quality indicators, called '***How well are we improving the lives of children and young people?***' This self-evaluation framework has been designed to complement existing self-evaluation guides which are used by many services.

The framework contains six high level questions, with a range of quality indicators sitting beneath each question:

What key outcomes have we achieved?

How well do we meet the needs of our stakeholders?

How good is the delivery of services for children, young people and families?

How good is our operational management?

How good is our leadership?

What is our capacity for improvement?

You can access the Self Evaluation Framework here.

[how-well-are-we-improving-the-lives-of-children-and-young-people](https://www.glowscotland.org.uk/fa/GirfecFalkirk/)

Inspectors will be looking for evidence of how well services are performing against key quality indicators. They will do this by conducting a range of Inspection activity that will include:

- ◆ Reviewing our own self-evaluation material
- ◆ Reading a number of background documents
- ◆ Scrutinising the Integrated Children's Services Plan and relevant progress reports
- ◆ Speaking with groups of staff
- ◆ Reading some case records
- ◆ Speaking with some children and their families

I have more questions...

We will be holding staff briefing sessions to ensure that you are up to date with the inspection and provide an opportunity for questions. In the meantime, you can find out more useful information by following the link below to the Practitioner Pages or by contacting the inspection Lead Co-ordinator.

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/fa/GirfecFalkirk/>

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