

## **EAST LOTHIAN COUNCIL'S SOCIAL WORK SERVICES PERFORMING WELL WITH SOME AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT, REPORT INSPECTORS**

East Lothian Council's social work services are delivering good outcomes for people in the area, however a number of improvements need to be addressed, according to an inspection report published today (25 February 2008).

The report, which covers all aspects of the council's social work services, evaluated six areas as good and four areas as adequate.

Inspectors highlighted strengths in the council's delivery of service, such as the educational attainment of looked after children and outcomes for adults with learning disabilities, as being amongst the best in the country. The report has 18 recommendations to address areas where improvement is needed.

The main findings of the inspection, which took place between May and September 2007, were:

- East Lothian Council was delivering good outcomes for people who use its social work services
- A number of examples of good practice were identified, including work being done by the children's services integration team to support vulnerable families
- Social work services had a committed and motivated workforce
- In the past there had been significant issues with corporate leadership and support for social work and social care in East Lothian. Inspectors found signs of improvement in this area.
- Children's services was ahead of adult social care on performance management
- Application of the eligibility criteria for children's services and adult social care needed to be reviewed
- Children's services and substance misuse services needed to communicate together and share information effectively
- The council needed to comply with the reviewing requirements of the national care home contract.

Alexis Jay, Chief Inspector, Social Work Inspection Agency, said:

“Inspectors recognised the council’s capacity for improvement as good and that some areas, such as improvements in corporate leadership, were already being addressed. We will now work with the council to agree an action plan in response to all the recommendations within the report.”

Copies of the East Lothian Council Performance Inspection report are available from the SWIA website at [www.swia.gov.uk](http://www.swia.gov.uk) or Blackwell’s Bookshop, 53 South Bridge, Edinburgh, EH1 1YS.

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For further information, please contact Linda McIntyre at Consolidated on 0131 240 6420 or email [swia@consol.co.uk](mailto:swia@consol.co.uk)

**Notes to editors:**

- **Embargoed copies of the report are available – please contact Linda McIntyre on 0131 240 6420**
- Ministers announced their intention to establish a new Social Work Inspection Agency (SWIA), which would operate independently and impartially, in November 2004. It formally began work on April 1, 2005
- SWIA is responsible for inspecting all social work services in Scotland and reports publicly to the Parliament on the quality of these services, locally and nationally