

FOLLOW UP INSPECTION OF DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY SOCIAL WORK SERVICES PUBLISHED

The Social Work Inspection Agency (SWIA) today (08 August 2008) issued its follow-up inspection report relating to the social work services provided by Dumfries and Galloway Council.

The follow-up inspection, which took place in February 2008, was carried out to monitor the progress made by the Council with the implementation of the 24 recommendations detailed in the initial performance inspection report, published in September 2006.

The follow up inspection showed improvements to strategic leadership, including the appointment of a new service director, and the creation of a single committee for social work services. Elected members had also shown a good grasp of issues facing social work and a commitment to addressing them.

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

“The purpose of the follow up inspection is to review the progress made by local authorities in implementing the action plans prepared in response to the original inspection.

“We recognise that the number and complexity of the issues raised in our initial recommendations would take time, however there were a number of important aspects of operational services to the public where the pace of change needed to be faster.

“The next few months will be crucial in implementing some of the processes which have been slow to develop, so the people who need services, their carers and the staff who deliver the services can see benefit from the activity which has taken place since our initial inspection.”

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For further information, contact Linda McIntyre at Consolidated on 0131 240 6423 or email lindam@consol.co.uk

Notes to editors:

- Embargoed copies of the follow-up inspection report are available – please contact Linda McIntyre on 0131 240 6423
- SWIA, which operates independently and impartially, reports publicly to the Parliament on the quality of these services, locally and nationally

- SWIA gathers and analyses a wide selection of information about a local authority and the social work services it provides or is responsible for. These findings are published in a report that identifies strengths as well as areas for improvement.
- For further information on inspections and the timetable of inspections for 2008, log on to www.swia.gov.uk