



SWIA LAUNCHES E-TOOL TO SUPPORT LOCAL AUTHORITY SOCIAL WORK SELF-EVALUATION

A new e-tool, developed to accompany the Social Work Inspection Agency's self-evaluation guide, will be launched today (01 March 2010) to assist local authorities with the continuous improvement of social work services.

The self-evaluation e-tool, which will be available online, will enable social work practitioners to record their evaluations, identify strengths and weaknesses, and assign priorities to each of the areas for improvement.

Through using the e-tool, local authorities will be able to generate reports and action plans to effectively monitor their progress in improving each of the priority areas for action.

The e-tool supports SWIA's self-evaluation guide, developed over 12 months in partnership with five local authorities and the Scottish Government's Changing Lives programme.

This guide is available to help local authorities accurately evaluate their social work services and, when verified by SWIA, should lead to less inspection for many of them. It has been designed to be used on its own, or in conjunction with other quality management systems to help local authorities and key partners continuously improve services through the process of self-evaluation.

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

"Self-evaluation is one way which can assist councils to improve the lives of people who use services. The e-tool, being launched today, has been designed

to help users carry out a self-evaluation against quality indicators and record the conclusions. This will lead to an action plan which will be monitored for progress.

“Accurate self-evaluation is necessary for every social work service in Scotland, and we are confident that this e-tool will assist with the improvement of services as the structures for social work and social care scrutiny change over the coming years.”

- ends -

For further information, please contact Linda McIntyre on 0131 240 6423 or email swia@consolidatedpr.com

Notes to editors:

- Copies of the self-evaluation guide for social work services are available at www.swia.gov.uk
- Changing Lives is the change programme for social work services in Scotland, based on the 21st century review of social work
- 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 visit www.swia.gov.uk