



# Child Protection inspection: are you ready?

The report of the Child Protection Audit and Review, "It's Everyone's Job to Make Sure I'm Alright", paved the way for council Chief Executives and Chief Constables to be at the forefront of child protection arrangements in their locality. Subsequently, the Joint Inspection of Children's Services and Inspection of Social Work Services (Scotland) Act was enacted by Parliament, giving powers to a number of inspectorates to combine and undertake inspections of child protection arrangements. These inspections started in 2006 and the programme until 2010 has been published along with the timetable for follow through inspections.

## How we can help

SOLACE Enterprises has extensive experience in helping authorities to get the best from a range of Inspectorate activities. A key element of our Child Protection Inspection service is in advising CEOs of the extent to which they are appropriately discharging their responsibilities in this area through a thorough examination of a council's Child Protection system and procedures. We provide you with a confidential 'critical friend' review of how your Child Protection system is currently performing and key risks. Based on that analysis, we highlight the key actions you need to take to ensure you are discharging your responsibilities adequately.

## The work programme

A two day preparatory period by our Associate will be followed by an on-site review which will be delivered over an intensive week or period of weeks. Following an initial discussion with you to agree any particular support you want as part of the work, we will agree a programme of interviews and observations to inform the assessment. The results and key actions needed to move on your improvement agenda will be reported to you on a confidential basis in an agreed form. This core approach will be of great benefit in assisting you to prepare for the inspection, enabling you to undertake your self-evaluation "How well do we protect children and meet their needs?" and present your Child Protection system in a positive way to the inspection team.

This package of support can also be 'customised' to complement your own preparation, including for example:

- Case-file reading and analysis of the quality of the files
- An evaluation of the arrangements for multi-agency and partnership working (using the published evaluation criteria)
- A review of your Child Protection arrangements, including guidelines, case conference arrangements, etc.
- Analysis of your complaints procedures
- Evaluation of information required for the inspection process
- Attendance and feed back from key Child Protection meetings such as case conferences and reviews
- Pre-inspection discussion and awareness raising for key participants in the child protection process, including the Chief Executive
- Gathering views from parents and young people where appropriate

## Our consultant

The review will be carried out by Glenys Johnston, a safeguarding and child protection specialist with many years of inspection experience. She has supported a number of Scottish authorities with their preparation for their SWIA inspections of social work and HMIE inspections of child protection. For six years she was the Independent Chair of three Local Safeguarding Children Boards, all rated excellent by inspectors.

## Cost of the service

This service is delivered on the basis of a ten day assignment at a cost of £8,500 plus VAT and travel and accommodation costs.

For further information please contact the Resource Centre. You can either phone on 0845 601 0649 or email [resource.centre@solaceenterprises.com](mailto:resource.centre@solaceenterprises.com) To find out more about SOLACE Enterprises and our full range of consultancy services see [www.solaceenterprises.com](http://www.solaceenterprises.com)

