

Meeting of South Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership	Performance & Audit Committee	
Held on:	31st March 2026	
Agenda Item:	10	
Title:	Joint inspection of services for children and young people subject to compulsory supervision orders living at home with their parents in South Ayrshire - Update to PAC.	
Summary:		
<p>The purpose of this report is to provide an update with regards to the Joint Inspection of services for children and young people subject to compulsory supervision orders living at home with their parents in South Ayrshire.</p>		
Author:	Gary Hoey, Head of Children’s Health, Care and Justice	
Action required:		
<p>That PAC notes the progress made in respect of the joint inspection and awaits the publication of the report scheduled for the 5th of May 2026.</p>		
Route to meeting:		
Directions:		
1. No Directions Required	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
2. Directions to NHS Ayrshire & Arran	<input type="checkbox"/>	
3. Directions to South Ayrshire Council	<input type="checkbox"/>	
4. Directions to both SAC & NHS	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Implications:		
	Financial	<input type="checkbox"/>
	HR	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Legal	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Equalities	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Sustainability	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Policy	<input type="checkbox"/>
	ICT	<input type="checkbox"/>

**JOINT INSPECTION OF SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE
SUBJECT TO COMPULSORY SUPERVISION ORDERS LIVING AT HOME WITH
THEIR PARENTS IN SOUTH AYRSHIRE - UPDATE TO PAC**

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update with regards to the Joint Inspection of services for children and young people subject to compulsory supervision orders living at home with their parents in South Ayrshire.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 That PAC notes the progress made in respect of the joint inspection and awaits the publication of the report scheduled for the 5th of May 2026.

3. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3.1 The Joint inspection of services for children and young people subject to compulsory supervision orders living at home with their parents in South Ayrshire was announced on the 24th of November 2025.

3.2 The Inspection led by the Care Inspectorate involves:

- His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland
- His Majesty's Inspectorate of Education in Scotland
- Healthcare Improvement Scotland
- Care Inspectorate

3.3 The inspection focuses on 3 key areas:

3.3.1 Key Area 1

Children and young people are supported to live with their families and receive well planned support which helps them overcome difficulties and make a positive difference to their lives. This relates to quality indicator 2.1 - Impact on children and young people of the Care Inspectorates quality framework for children and young people in need of care and protection

3.3.2 Key Area 2

The services children and young people receive are planned and delivered in a way which is compassionate and by staff who put children and young people at the heart of decision making. People in the workforce ensure that children, young people and parents are meaningfully listened to, heard and included.

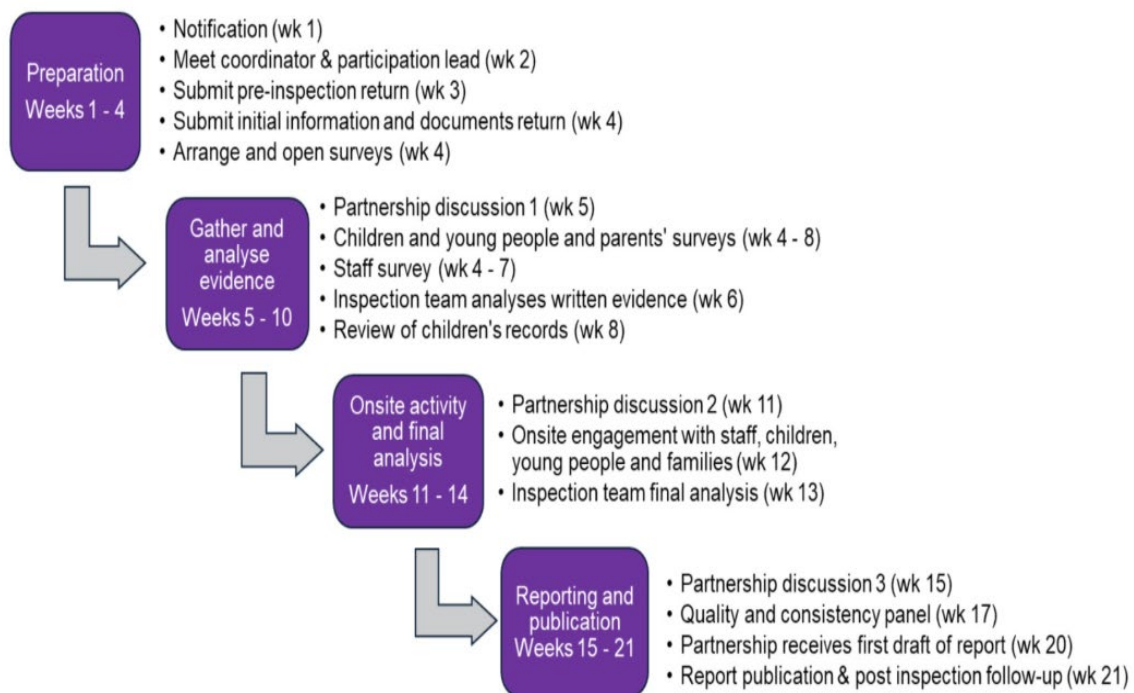
3.3.3 This relates to quality indicator 5.3 – Care planning, managing risk and effective intervention and Quality Indicator 5.4 – Involving individual children, young people and families of the Care Inspectorates quality framework for children and young people in need of care and protection.

3.3.4 Key Area 3

Leaders and managers work well together to create and maintain a joined-up system of care which delivers the right service to each child at the right time. This provides children and young people, their parents and the workforce with help, support and accountability.

3.3.5 This relates to quality indicator 5 9.2 – Leadership of Strategy and Direction of the Care Inspectorates quality framework for children and young people in need of care and protection.

3.4 The inspection footprint sets out the following.



3.5 Gary Hoey, Chief Social Work Officer, was appointed as Lead Coordinator and Nicola Hunter and Andrew Craig were identified to coordinate planning, engagement and quality assurance throughout the inspection. Extensive administration support was also required and led by Tracey Duff. This core group met with the inspectors on a weekly basis and additional meetings were also convened when required.

3.6 An Inspection Oversight Group was formed consisting of representatives from Education, Scottish Children's Reporters Administration, Police, Thriving Communities, Children's Services Planning and the Voluntary Sector. This mirrored the agencies who led by the Care Inspectorate were involved. This group met weekly to progress the plan and action required to meet the demands of the inspection.

4. REPORT

4.1 To date the following milestones have been achieved in our inspection journey.

- Pre Inspection Return identifying Cases over a two-year period.
- Arrangement of rooms and IT to facilitate records reading and engagement activity
- Professional Discussion 1
- Professional Discussion 2
- Issuance of 7-minute briefings and information to Elected Members and Chief Officers, Agency partners and staff across all agencies in south Ayrshire.
- Provision of Initial Information to the Care Inspectorate highlighting strengths and improvement across with regards to the provision of services and developments as we move forward (*Appendix 1*).
- Uploading of supporting evidence relating to the initial information.
- Case File Sample Identification 60 cases and 15 reserve with 15 marked for follow up and included in this number.
- Internal record file reading prior to submission.
- Provision of Case File Reading Training and identification 5 local file readers.
- Uploading of Case Files. In total from Health, Education Social Work and Scottish Children's Reporters Administration of a total Number of 2331 documents.
- Issue and return of
 - Case Files (*Appendix 2*)
 - Staff Surveys (*Appendix 3*)
 - Young Person Surveys (*Appendix 4*)
 - Parent Carers Surveys (*Appendix 5*)
- Organization of Focus Groups and Engagement Opportunities to commence during Engagement week.
- Organisation of Q&A sessions and briefing prior to Focus Groups.
- Arrangement of rooms and IT to facilitate records reading and engagement activity

4.2 Engagement week events commenced on 2 March 2026 comprising of 35 focus groups, visits and individual sessions arranged throughout the week.

4.3 Practice Discussion 3 takes place on the 23rd of March 2026. At this meeting the Care Inspectorate will give us a broad overview of their findings and gradings although it should be noted that these are provisional as moderation and quality assurance are required

4.4 The full report will be published on 5th of May 2026

4.5 File Reading Feedback (Appendix 2)

- 4.5.1 In relation to file reading there were **no** cases that were called in by the Care Inspectorate for management review. This process is triggered if there are concerns identified within the file that need further investigation or immediate action.
- 4.5.2 The Care Inspectorate and partner inspectorates reviewed records for 60 children and young people subject to Compulsory Supervision Orders (CSOs) at home in South Ayrshire. The findings reflect practice across initial response, assessment and planning, review activity, intervention, and impact.
- 4.5.3 Overall, most files rated good or better. South Ayrshire and our Children's Services Partners demonstrate strong collaborative working, consistent engagement with children and parents, and good-quality assessments. Staff build meaningful relationships that help children feel listened to and supported.
- 4.5.4 However, timeliness, consistency in planning, and progress in reducing long durations on CSOs require strengthened oversight and improvement.
- 4.5.5 Interventions are largely effective, but variability—particularly around complex risk such as mental health and family circumstances—indicates areas where practice quality could be more robust and consistent.
- 4.5.6 Key Strengths identified in the file reading.:
- Children are known, heard and included
 - Parents are consistently engaged
 - Multi-agency working is strong
 - Assessment and planning processes are established
- 4.5.7 The Oversight group were sighted on the improvement areas regarding areas of practice such as S44 Looked after and Accommodated Procedures adherence, thresholds across agencies, review of the format of child assessment and plan.

4.6 Staff Survey (Appendix 3)

- 4.6.1 The staff survey gathered the views of frontline practitioners and first-line managers across Education, Social Work, Health, Police, and third-sector partners who work with children and young people subject to compulsory supervision orders (CSOs) living at home in South Ayrshire.
- 4.6.2 A total of 304 staff responded, with 93% completing the survey in full. Most respondents were from Education (45%), followed by Social Care/Social Work (26%), Health (13%), Police (4%), and other services (13%). 63% of respondents were frontline staff.

4.6.3 Overall, results demonstrate strong confidence, commitment and capability across the workforce, alongside positive perceptions of children's outcomes and the quality of multi-agency work. Areas of uncertainty relate primarily to aspects of children's environments, availability of advocacy, and service capacity.

4.6.4 The full survey and key messages are attached.

4.7 Parents Carers Survey (Appendix 4)

- Parents generally feel respected and understood by staff
- Parents feel involved in planning and decision-making, but there is still room for improvement
- Support is helping children stay connected to important people
- Parents see positive impact on safety and wellbeing

4.7.1 Key Features of this were positive relational practice and a foundation of trusting worker–parent relationships. This suggests that support is effective and meaningful, not just procedural. Parents largely agreed that their children received the right help to maintain loving, supportive relationships with people important to them.

4.8 Young Peoples Survey (Appendix 5)

4.8.1 The key messages emerging from our young people's survey are as follows:

4.8.2 Understanding and Engagement

Most children and young people understood why professionals were working with them and their families, suggesting clarity of purpose and good communication. A large majority felt listened to, treated with respect, and included in discussions about their lives.

4.8.3 Safety

Many young people reported they had needed help to feel safer over the past couple of years. Children and young people generally felt safe at home, in school, and in the community, but with some variation. Most had a trusted adult they could speak to when feeling unsafe, an important protective factor.

4.8.4 Wellbeing and Support

Children and young people indicated that support services had helped them to improve mental and physical health, feel happier and more stable, engage better at school and strengthen relationships. Most also reported feeling hopeful about the future because of the support they receive.

4.8.5 Relationships

Those who answered optional questions about relationships generally felt they received the right help to build and maintain loving, supportive relationships with family, carers, or others they cared about

4.9 Professional discussion 2

4.9.1 Following Professional Discussion 2 the Care inspectorate identified the following questions and themes to be explored within the respective 35 focus groups, visits and individual session arranged through out engagement week commencing on 2nd March 2026.

- The Promise
- Children's rights
- How well children and young people are involved in service planning and development and how their views influence policy and change
- The extent to which care experienced children and young people have meaningful opportunities for engagement with their corporate parents
- How children and young people will know that their corporate parents have the highest ambitions and aspiration for their futures
- Equity of support to children and young people across South Ayrshire
- Poverty strategy
- Quality assurance and self-evaluation
- Performance management
- Commissioning
- Workforce development and support
- Management of resources
- Leadership of people and partnerships
- Ensuring sustainability of services and workforce capacity amongst required budget savings
- How the future ambitions of the partnership will be realised against required budget savings
- Collaborative leadership in strategic planning

4.9.2 Focus group members were appraised of this information prior to attendance at focus groups for reflection.

4.9.3 In summary we have made good and steady progress through the inspection at considerable pace. The efforts and industry of all involved should be held in high regard. It is inevitable that improvement actions largely already identified by the services will arise following publication of the report. This action plan will be referred to the Joint Improvement Group of Children's Services Planning.

5. **Strategic context**

5.1 The delivery of services for children and young people subject to compulsory supervision orders living at home with their parents in South Ayrshire align to number of key strategic objectives both within the Local Outcome Improvement Plan and the SAHSCP's Integrated Joint Boards Strategy namely:

- We help build communities where people are safe
- We focus on prevention and tackling inequality

- We are transparent and listen to you
- We nurture and are part of communities that care for each other
- We are an ambitious and effective Partnership
- We make a positive impact beyond the services we deliver
- We work together to give you the right care in the right place

6. Implications

6.1 Financial Implications

6.1.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

6.2 Human Resource Implications

6.2.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

6.3 Legal Implications

6.3.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

6.4 Equalities implications

6.4.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

6.5 Sustainability implications

6.5.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

6.6 Clinical/professional assessment

6.6.1 Although there is a degree of uncertainty in terms of the outcome of the inspection the feedback through surveys and casefile readings is of a positive nature.

7. CONSULTATION AND PARTNERSHIP WORKING

7.1 By the nature and demands of the joint inspection, our corporate parenting and children's services planning partners have worked collaboratively to tell a coherent story of how we improve outcomes for children, young people, and their families in South Ayrshire. We have also engaged with other local authorities who have recently undergone inspection to strengthen our understanding, preparedness, and awareness of the inspection process.

8. RISK ASSESSMENT

8.1 Not applicable

APPENDICES

- Appendix 1: South Ayrshire Initial Information Document 191225
- Appendix 2: CYP CSOH record reading analysis South Ayrshire Feb26
- Appendix 3: CSOH Staff Survey Report South Ayrshire Jan 26
- Appendix 4: Parent Survey Analysis
- Appendix 5: CYP survey analysis

BACKGROUND PAPERS

N/A

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