

**During 2010 - 2011 there was an independent inspection of services for Looked After Children in Jersey. The findings and recommendations of this inspection were published in early 2012.**

A year later, in 2013, the Care Inspectorate revisited to see what progress Jersey had made in response to their recommendations. This information leaflet provides a summary of that follow-up Inspection process and its findings.

### Who are Looked After Children?

Looked After Children is the term used to describe children and young people who are cared for by Children's Social Services. They are supported by social workers, residential care workers, foster carers and other professionals such as health staff or school staff. Rather than living at home with their parents they live in children's homes, in therapeutic units, or with foster carers.

### Why have an independent inspection?

We need to know which parts of the services we provide for Looked After Children work well, and what needs to improve.

In 2008 Andrew Williamson, a leading social work expert and former Director of Social Services in the UK, recommended in his report entitled, *An Inquiry into Child Protection in Jersey*, that our services for Looked After Children be independently inspected. It is important that inspections are independent so that all involved, such as children and young people, foster carers, staff and managers, feel they can talk freely about any concerns or problems they may have.

This follow-up Inspection set out to look at the extent to which services for looked after children had improved, and to report on the progress made in response to the fourteen recommendations made in the initial Inspection Report in 2012.



### Who carried out the Follow-Up Inspection?

Both the initial and follow-up inspections were carried out by the Care Inspectorate. The Care Inspectorate is the independent scrutiny and improvement agency for care, social work and child protection services in Scotland. It exists to make sure that people receive the highest quality of care, and that their rights are promoted and protected. The Care Inspectorate is accountable to Scottish Ministers and its governing body. The Inspectors used the same indicators of quality used in Scotland to measure how good our services are.

Jersey's Children's Policy Group\* asked the Care Inspectorate to undertake the initial inspection and this follow up. Scottish Ministers also had to agree that the Care Inspectorate staff could carry out the work in Jersey.

*\* Jersey's Children's Policy Group is made up of the Ministers for Health & Social Services, Education Sports & Culture, Home Affairs, and includes the Assistant Minister for Health with special responsibility for children, and the Assistant Chief Minister with special responsibility for social policy*



**FOLLOW-UP  
INSPECTION  
SUMMARY 2013**



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### Do you want to know more?

You can download a full copy of the Care Inspectorate follow-up Report and a summary of the service improvement plan from [www.gov.je/LookedAfterChildren](http://www.gov.je/LookedAfterChildren)

Or, if you want more information about the inspection process, the Children's Policy Group, or Children's Social Services please contact the Children's Social Services in the first instance. They will be able to direct your query to the most appropriate person.

Call: 01534 445749 Email: [K.Rogers@health.gov.je](mailto:K.Rogers@health.gov.je)

[www.gov.je/LookedAfterChildren](http://www.gov.je/LookedAfterChildren)

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States of Jersey

# Services for Looked After Children

## 2013 FOLLOW-UP INSPECTION SUMMARY



## What did the inspection involve?

### This inspection focused on:

- services provided to children in children's homes, therapeutic units, foster care and the Greenfields secure unit
- services provided to young people leaving care

### As part of this follow-up Inspection process the inspectors:

- read information and records relating to a selection of individual Looked After Child (known as case files)
- read about the work that Children's Social Services had carried out in order to deliver the 14 recommendations from the initial inspection
- asked children and young people in care, and some recent care leavers what they thought about the services they received (they were assisted to do this by three suitably knowledgeable Associate Inspectors, trained and supported by the Care Inspectorate. These Associate Inspectors are young people who have direct experience of the Jersey Looked After Children services)
- carried out a staff survey and talked to staff and managers involved in supporting looked after young people during their daily lives
- talked to other people and organisations involved with, and interested in supporting Looked After Children, for example States Members, representatives of other States Departments such as Education, Probation Services, Police, the Safeguarding Partnership Board, and the Board of Visitors who support all young people in residential care



## What did the inspection find?

### The inspectors found evidence that:

- the Children's Policy Group has set a clear direction for children's services in Jersey
- the Children's Services Improvement Plan has been successful in bringing about a number of important improvements in the way services are provided
- there is increased confidence in the strategic leadership and greater understanding of the strategic direction for Children's Services and corporate responsibilities for looked after children and young people
- encouraging improvements have been made in the physical environments of children's houses and the training provided to residential care staff
- individual children and young people have a greater say regarding their care, and they feel involved and enthusiastic about this

### The inspection also found some areas of our services where progress had been slower, and asked that priority be given to:

- ensuring better ways are developed to gather accurate information about the difference services are making to the lives of children and young people
- continuing to involve children and young people in meaningful ways in the development and continuous improvement of services in the future
- reviewing how provision of high quality residential care could be improved

The inspectors concluded that they recognised that there is a clear commitment to quality improvement at all levels in the organisation, and that the work already undertaken meant overall the services for looked after children and young people in Jersey are improving.



## What next?

Jersey will be introducing a system of supported self-evaluation helping us to assess for ourselves if our services are improving and delivering better outcomes for children and young people. The Care Inspectorate are supportive of self-evaluation because it will help us to be forward looking, and be focussed on outcomes.

The Care Inspectorate believes the Children and Young People's Strategic Framework (developed in 2012) will enable all agencies to work together, and provides an ideal structure to begin this process, utilising the six outcomes:

- Be healthy
- Be safe
- Achieve and do
- Grow confidently
- Be responsible and respected
- Have a voice and be heard

The Children's Policy Group will continue to work to oversee delivery of ongoing children's service improvements, and endorses progress on the establishment of the working groups, set up to deliver on the Children and Young People's Strategic Framework.

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