



Item No. 16

Meeting Date

Wednesday 10th September 2025

**Glasgow City
Integration Joint Board
Finance, Audit and Scrutiny Committee**

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**Joint Inspection of Services for Children and Young People
at Risk of Harm in Glasgow City**

Purpose of Report:

To provide the IJB Finance, Audit and Scrutiny Committee with an update following the joint inspection of services for children and young people at risk of harm in Glasgow City, which GCHSCP took part in as one of the key community planning partners across the city supporting children and young people.

Background/Engagement:

The Care Inspectorate published the report on [12 August 2025](#). The HSCP welcomes the Care Inspectorate's findings. The report noted clear strengths in the planning and delivery of services, working alongside and closely with our partners, to achieve positive experiences and outcomes for children and young people at risk of harm.

GCHSCP remains committed to continuous improvement and is now reflecting on the identified areas for strengthening through the development of an improvement plan.

Governance Route:

The matters contained within this paper have been previously considered by the following group(s) as part of its development.

- HSCP Senior Management Team ☒
Council Corporate Management Team ☐
Health Board Corporate Management Team ☐
Council Committee ☐
Update requested by IJB ☐
Other ☐
Not Applicable ☐

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Recommendations:	The IJB Finance, Audit and Scrutiny Committee is asked to: a) Note the contents of this report; and b) Note the requirement for Glasgow Community Planning Partnership to develop an improvement plan.
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Relevance to Integration Joint Board Strategic Plan:
Glasgow City Integration Joint Board is committed to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• evaluating new and existing systems and services to ensure they are delivering the vision and priorities and meeting the needs of communities• focusing on continuous improvement, within a culture of performance management, openness and transparency.

Implications for Health and Social Care Partnership:

Reference to National Health & Wellbeing Outcome:	Alignment with the following National Health and Wellbeing Outcomes 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9
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Personnel:	N/A
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Carers:	Carers were involved in the inspection of children services and will have an interest in the findings and the subsequent improvement plan.
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Provider Organisations:	The third sector is key to delivering a broad range of services funded through a variety of sources and including GCHSCP commissioning arrangements. There is a strategic commitment to provide increased alignment, stability and sustainability for third sector partners delivering key services for children and families.
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Equalities:	<p>The improvement plan will align with the Equality Act 2010, ensuring that no child or family is disadvantaged due to protected characteristics such as race, disability, gender, religion, sexual orientation, or socio-economic status.</p> <p>The plan will also reflect obligations under the Human Rights Act 1998 and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).</p>
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Fairer Scotland Compliance:	N/A
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Financial:	No direct financial implications.
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Legal:	No direct legal implications.
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Economic Impact:	N/A
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Sustainability:	N/A
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Sustainable Procurement and Article 19:	N/A
Risk Implications:	Implementing an improvement plan following an inspection of services for children at risk of harm carries several moderate risk implications that will be carefully managed. These risks are associated with our capacity to make improvements alongside managing wider resource pressures within HSCP Children's Services.
Implications for Glasgow City Council:	<p>The improvement plan will seek to drive improvements for children, young people and their families in Glasgow City. The intentions will align with GCC Strategic Plan (2022-2027) and addresses 3 of the 4 Strategic Grand Challenges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reduce poverty and inequality in our communities.• Increase opportunity and prosperity for all our citizens.• Enable staff to deliver essential services in a sustainable, innovative, and efficient way for our communities
Implications for NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde:	<p>The improvement plan will seek to drive improvements for children, young people and their families in Glasgow City. In line with NHSGG&C's Quality Strategy (2024-2029) against the key priorities for care and support that are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Safe, Effective and Efficient• Person-centred• Co-produced• Focused on learning and improving

1. Purpose

- 1.1 Glasgow City Community Planning Partnership was notified on 13th February 2025 that the Care Inspectorate, Education Scotland, His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland, and Healthcare Improvement Scotland intended to undertake a joint Inspection of services for children and young people at risk of harm in Glasgow City. The inspection took place between February and June 2025, covering strategic and operational delivery across the Glasgow Community Planning Partnership.

2. Criteria for inspection

- 2.1 The criteria for inspection was any child or young person who had been held in the protection process between 13th February 2023 and 13th February 2025. 1,805 children and young people were identified as being in scope for consideration for inspection.

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2.2 The joint inspection team considered and evaluated the effectiveness of services for children and young people up to the age of 18 at risk of harm and looked at how Glasgow's Community Planning Partnership was making a difference to their lives.

2.3 In undertaking the inspection, the inspectors' team considered the following statements:

Statement 1: Children and young people are safer because risks have been identified early and responded to effectively.

Statement 2: Children and young people's lives improve with high quality planning and support, ensuring they experience sustained loving and nurturing relationships to keep them safe from further harm.

Statement 3: Children and young people and families are meaningfully and appropriately involved in decisions about their lives and influence service planning, delivery and improvement.

Statement 4: Collaborative strategic leadership.

3. Methodology

3.1 Position Statement

During the inspection process, the Care Inspectorate requested the submission of a partnership Position Statement. This document outlined the city's context and demographic profile, highlighted the partnership's strengths, and identified key areas for development. To support the Position Statement, the Partnership submitted approximately 100 documents, which were reviewed by the inspection team. These included:

- Strategic plans, performance data, and policy documents from across the partnership
- Child protection protocols
- Poverty reduction strategies
- Housing and homelessness data
- Education and inclusion frameworks

3.2 Demographic Context

The inspection report recognises the demographics in Glasgow and the complexity of needs among Glasgow's children and young people:

- Population: 631,970 (2023), with 15% under age 16
- Deprivation: 45% of data zones in the most deprived 20% nationally
- Child Poverty: 36% of children live in poverty (vs. 21% nationally)
- Migration: 19.1% of residents born outside the UK, 169 languages spoken in schools, 25% of pupils speak English as an additional language

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- 3.3 It also recognised the significant progress made in how services are delivered across Glasgow particularly in relation to strong collaborative leadership, a clear anti-poverty focus, the strength of our family support services, innovative practice, and a commitment to trauma-informed care. Alongside this, Glasgow's services operate in an environment with complex socio-economic challenges, including high levels of poverty, housing insecurity, migration and mental health that places additional pressures on systems across the Partnership.

3.4 Casefile Reading

1,805 children and young people were in scope for consideration within the inspection, with the Care Inspectorate identifying 116 children and young people whose casefiles were analysed by the Care Inspectorate and a group of multi-agency partners.

This casefile reading focused on:

- Risk identification and response
- Planning quality
- Multi-agency coordination
- Outcomes for children

3.5 Engagement Activities

The inspection team engaged extensively with children, young people, and their parents and carers throughout the inspection process. A range of methods were used to ensure meaningful participation and representation:

Children and Young People

- Survey Participation: A survey was distributed to all children and young people who met the inspection criteria. A total of 144 responses were received.
- Direct Engagement: Approximately 100 families were invited to participate in direct meetings with the inspection team.
- Peer-Led Engagement: The inspection team included young inspection volunteers with lived experience, who supported peer-led engagement activities to ensure authentic youth voice.

Parents and Carers

- Survey Participation: A separate survey was circulated to parents and carers of children involved in the inspection. This resulted in 67 responses.
- Direct Engagement: Of the 100 families invited to participate in meetings, 39 parents and carers attended and contributed their views, alongside 16 young people.

3.6 Staff Focus Groups

Three professional discussions took place with leaders from across the Community Planning Partnership and members of the inspection team, which focused on the progress of the inspection and an opportunity for the leadership team to meet with the members of the team.

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3.7 A total of 37 multi-agency focus groups took place over 2 weeks. Focus groups were designed to:

- Gather qualitative feedback on service delivery.
- Explore multi-agency collaboration and challenges.
- Identify examples of good practice and areas for improvement.

4. Reflections and Key Findings from the Joint Inspection

4.1 The joint inspection provided a valuable opportunity for services and partners across Glasgow to reflect on how they work together to support and protect some of the city's most vulnerable children, young people, and families. It also prompted a deeper consideration of how we undertake effective and meaningful self-evaluation and quality assurance, ensuring that our services not only keep children and young people safe but also demonstrate impact and inform future learning and development.

4.2 Feedback from children and young people was reassuring, particularly in how they perceive services and the strength-based relationships they have with the professionals supporting them. However, the report identified areas for improvement, including:

- Gaps in advocacy provision for children and young people
- Ensuring care plans are tailored to each child's individual needs.

4.3 The inspection also highlighted the strength of collaborative working across the partnership, with recognition of the vital role played by third sector organisations especially in the development and delivery of Family Support services.

4.4 Furthermore, the report commended the Partnership's response to the challenges of poverty and deprivation in Glasgow. It noted that planning and prevention work is underpinned by:

- Strong collaborative approaches
- Early intervention strategies
- Income maximisation efforts
- A clear strategic vision for supporting families across the city.

Key areas of strength

- Strategic Leadership: Strong multi-agency collaboration
- Child Poverty Programme: Innovative and impactful
- Third Sector Partnerships: Effective family support
- Staff Relationships: Children feel safe and supported
- Early Intervention: Improvements in education and wellbeing
- Widespread use of trauma-informed and relational practice
- Identifying and responding to child protection concerns
- Staff consistently demonstrated child-centred planning and inclusive engagement
- Clear alignment between strategic plans (e.g. Children's Services Plan, Council Strategic Plan, Health Board Delivery Plan)
- A Partnership commitment to a culture of improvement, and evidence of improvements already identified and started.

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Good practice

- Financial Inclusion officers in education establishments
- The Youth Health Service, a multi-agency community-based service for children and young people aged 12-19, that delivers a holistic early intervention and prevention service
- The strategic approach and Family Support, including Glasgow Intensive Family Support Service, and third sector collaboration
- 'No wrong door' approach to anti-poverty, including health visitor provision for S22 financial support to families
- Operation Glacies – a Police Scotland led approach to multi-agency screening which helped oversee and plan joint responses to concerns about child sexual exploitation and criminal exploitation of children.

Areas for Development

- Advocacy service for children held in protective processes
- Delays in Initial Referral Discussions as per National Guidance
- Interventions to disrupt the criminal exploitation of young people were having a limited impact
- Children's plans were not always reflecting the individual needs of children.
- Improvements in Quality Assurance and self evaluation processes
- Feedback from children, young people and families was not being routinely gathered to inform service planning and development.

5. Conclusion

- 5.1 The inspection report concludes that Glasgow City's partnership has the capacity to deliver meaningful improvements in service delivery, particularly in areas identified for development. The Care Inspectorate stated:

"The Care Inspectorate and its scrutiny partners are confident that the partnership in Glasgow City has the capacity to make changes to service delivery in the areas that require improvement and in which they can directly influence change."

- 5.2 As part of the overall evaluation, the Care Inspectorate assessed Glasgow Community Planning Partnership against **Quality Indicator 2.1**, which considers the extent to which children and young people:

- Feel valued, loved, fulfilled, and secure
- Feel listened to, understood, and respected
- Experience sincere human contact and enduring relationships
- Get the best start in life

- 5.3 Following the joint inspection, Glasgow received an evaluation of **"Good"** for Quality Indicator 2.1.

- 5.4 An evaluation of *Good* reflects performance with several important strengths that, taken together, clearly outweigh areas for improvement. These strengths have a significant positive impact on the experiences and outcomes of children and young people. However, further improvements are required to maximise wellbeing and ensure consistently positive experiences across all services.

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6. Recommendations

6.1 The IJB Finance, Audit and Scrutiny is asked to:

- a) Note the contents of this report; and
- b) Note the requirement for Glasgow Community Planning Partnership to develop an improvement plan.