

Policy Committee Annual Report to the Board - 2015/16

Report to: Board
Date: 30 September 2016
Report by: Paul Edie, Chair and Convener of the Policy Committee
Report No: B-14-2016
Agenda Item: 7.2

PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report represents a summary of the work of the Policy Committee from April 2015 to March 2016 and gives the Committee's opinion on the assurance that this work provides.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Board:

1. Notes the work of the Policy Committee.

Version Control and Consultation Recording Form

Version	Consultation	Manager	Brief Description of Changes	Date
1.0	Senior Management			
	Legal Services			
	Corporate and Customer Services Directorate			
1.0	Committee Consultation (where appropriate)	Policy Committee	Correction to terminology – amend to “people who use care services and their carers”	18.5.16
	Partnership Forum Consultation (where appropriate)			
Equality Impact Assessment				
Confirm that Involvement and Equalities Team have been informed			YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
EIA Carried Out			YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If yes, please attach the accompanying EIA and briefly outline the equality and diversity implications of this policy.				
If no, you are confirming that this report has been classified as an operational report and not a new policy or change to an existing policy (guidance, practice or procedure)			Name: Rami Okasha Position: Executive Director of Strategy and Improvement	
Authorised by Director	Name: R Okasha		Date: 6 September 2016	

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Over the course of the year, the Policy Committee has undertaken an important role in discussing key policy developments in the sectors which affect the Care Inspectorate. It has found the ability to reflect critically and strategically on emerging issues particularly helpful. It has also been a useful forum for Board member/officer interaction and for sharing information on key issues with the organisation's other committees.

The Committee has explored the implications of wider public policy developments in respect of how the Care Inspectorate can contribute to changing circumstances to improve outcomes for people who use services and their carers and respond to emerging public priorities. At the same time, the Committee has favoured an approach which seeks opportunities to reflect on the operations and policies of the Care Inspectorate itself, to ensure the consolidation of excellence.

The Committee has also spent time examining scrutiny findings from partner agencies, to reflect on the strategic implications of those for the Care Inspectorate.

2.0 MEMBERSHIP

The membership of the Committee has been:

Paul Edie, Chair (Convener of the Committee)
Mike Cairns
Anne Haddow
Anne Houston
David Wiseman

The Committee has agreed that it is beneficial to have all three Conveners as members, which has enabled good reporting back to their respective Committees.

3.0 CONSIDERATION OF CARE INSPECTORATE POLICIES AND STRATEGIES

The Committee has been fully involved in the development of the Care Inspectorate's Quality Improvement Strategy, which sets out the organisation's approach and contribution to improvement within the care sector, what it aspires to be, its means of realising this and how it can collaborate with others.

The Committee has commented on the proposed actions to take forward the further development of the Care Inspectorate's quality management and improvement practices. The strategy will help the Care Inspectorate build a culture of continuous improvement across all business activities and support the achievement of the organisation's Corporate Plan 2014/18.

The Care Inspectorate's Intelligence Framework and accompanying Action Plan was agreed by the Committee in March 2015. The framework develops and strengthens

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the Care Inspectorate's intelligence function. It is underpinned by a set of principles that ensure the organisation's approach to the gathering, analysis, sharing and use of data and information is responsive, relevant, credible, robust, efficient and outcomes-focussed. In agreeing the Intelligence Framework, the Committee has noted the resource implications for future ICT development. More recently, the Committee has considered how the Care Inspectorate can provide market oversight information to local authorities, based on intelligence gathered in respect of care services. The Committee was keen to explore this proposal further and has been considering the risks and benefits of providing such a service.

Developing the Care Inspectorate's Strategy for Supporting Improvement in Social Services has been a key area of work for the Committee and it has considered the main issues that were identified at the staff seminar in February last year. Members have recommended that the role of carers, as well as people who use services, be taken into account as part of the strategy, which is due to be presented to the Board for approval in September 2016. The Committee welcomed the consultation with Care Inspectorate staff as part of the development of the strategy.

The Committee has been regularly appraised on the development of the Care Inspectorate's Corporate Plan. It agreed to the revised four strategic objectives so that some of the more detailed key priorities be moved from the Plan into operational plans and that the refreshed Corporate Plan be taken to the Board for approval.

4.0 CONSIDERATION OF SIGNIFICANT PUBLIC POLICY ISSUES

The Committee has received regular detailed information on the further development of the National Care Standards (NCS) and the Care Inspectorate's joint working on the project with Healthcare Improvement Scotland. It has considered the consultation on the draft Principles and provided a steer for the joint Care Inspectorate and Healthcare Improvement Scotland response to the consultation. The Committee has explored the application of the NCS to self-directed support, in light of this being a non-regulated area. Discussions on this have taken into account the vulnerability of people who had opted for self-directed support and the level of safeguards in place whilst still enabling them to make their own independent choices. The Committee has recommended that this issue be a subject for a future Board Development Event.

The Committee has considered a number of issues arising from the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 and noted the discussions that have taken place with the Scottish Commissioner for Children and Young People on the development of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Care Inspectorate in order to share information and identify and agree investigatory responsibilities.

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5.0 CONSIDERATION OF LEGISLATION

The Committee has considered the implications of the Regulators' Strategic Code of Practice, made under the Regulatory Reform (Scotland) Act 2014, and the work required by the Care Inspectorate to ensure compliance with the Code. It agreed to hold a Board Development Event in March last year which enabled wider discussion and an understanding of the Code.

The Committee has received regular updates on progress with the Carers (Scotland) Bill, which was introduced to the Scottish Parliament on 9 March 2015 and passed in February 2016. It has noted that the proposed amendments to the Bill in relation to the Care Inspectorate have been withdrawn and that the Scottish Government has requested that the Care Inspectorate develops proposals around scrutiny.

The quarterly production of the policy tracker has enabled the Committee to be kept well informed of legislative and policy developments on a regular basis. Through the tracker, the Committee has taken cognisance of the:

- Assisted Suicide (Scotland) Bill
- Passing of the Community Justice (Scotland) Bill
- Scottish Government Report on progress made over the previous year following the publication of the Brock Report on child protection, which included two recommendations for the Care Inspectorate
- Scottish Parliament Health and Sport Committee inquiry into palliative care where there were a number of proposed actions referring to the Care Inspectorate within the draft position paper submitted by the Scottish Partnership for Palliative Care
- The SPSO letter on integrated health and social care complaints process and the Care Inspectorate's evidence to the Local Government and Regeneration Committee

The Committee has also noted the passing of the Health (Tobacco, Nicotine etc and Care) (Scotland) Bill. For the Care Inspectorate, this means the establishment of an organisational duty of candour that will involve a monitoring role in the implementation of the process by the services it regulates and inspects through the notification process.

6.0 POLICY COMMITTEE EFFECTIVENESS

The Committee has reviewed the way in which it operates and has made the assessment that it operates effectively and that its terms of reference remain relevant. However, it has recommended to the Board that consideration should be given to including reference to the Care Inspectorate's contribution to public policy more broadly, as well as to the Scottish Government's agenda on health and social care.

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In addressing its effectiveness, the Committee has considered the individual expertise and knowledge of its membership and whether the Terms of Reference should be more prescriptive in defining what these should be. It has concluded that the ability of the Chair to appoint members to committees allows an appropriate level of flexibility to ensure a wide range of perspectives, including those of people who use services and their carers, are brought to the Committee.

7.0 OTHER COMMITTEE BUSINESS

The Committee received a presentation from Scottish Care on its report “Towards a Partnership for Improvement: Independent Sector Providers’ Experiences of Regulation and Inspection by the Care Inspectorate”. The Committee noted the commitments from both organisations to partnership working and improving services and outcomes for people who use services and their carers.

The development of the Care Inspectorate’s new complaints process has been an area of work that the Policy Committee has been fully involved in and has commented upon, particularly its support for the role of inspection volunteers in contributing to the new process. The Committee has recommended that the new complaints process be the subject of a future Board Development Event.

8.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The work of the Committee is serviced by the Executive Director of Strategy and Improvement, the Committee Support Officer, with significant input from the Care Inspectorate’s Policy team, and other teams also.

9.0 BENEFITS FOR PEOPLE WHO USE SERVICES AND THEIR CARERS

The Policy Committee is a key element of the Care Inspectorate’s governance arrangements and system of internal control. The Policy Committee has a significant role to play in exploring internal and external developments which may influence the Care Inspectorate’s work and its strategic operating environment. This means that people who use services and their carers can have confidence that the Care Inspectorate’s work will remain strategically relevant and capable of evolving and changing as the ways in which care is delivered change.

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