

Health and Social Services Committee HSS-05-01(p.2b)

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Date: 14th March 2001

Time: Committee Room 3, 2.00pm

Title: SSIW Inspection Programme 2001-2001

Children's services

Child protection: Two further authorities will be inspected, namely Powys and Swansea. The Vale of Glamorgan will also be inspected, at the request of the Assembly Minister, alongside the inspection of the authority's Best Value review of children's services.

Planning for children looked after by local authorities: A new series of inspections will be developed. Two authorities will be inspected, namely Wrexham and Torfaen.

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Adult services

Services for people with disabilities: Four further authorities will be inspected, namely Carmarthenshire, Rhondda Cynon Taff, Vale of Glamorgan and the Isle of Anglesey.

Services for people with learning disabilities: A new series of inspections will be developed. Inspections will take place in the following inspection year.

Joint reviews

Joint reviews will take place in four authorities, namely Caerphilly, Cardiff, Conwy and Pembrokeshire.

Youth offender teams

The programme will be announced after further discussion with the Youth Justice Board and other inspectorates.

Thematic inspections

These result in overview reports for Wales, rather than reports on individual authorities. They are carried out by a mix of questionnaire surveys and selected fieldwork. SSIW will plan an inspection on social services arrangements on discharge from hospitals, and an inspection of services for young people leaving care.

Regulatory inspections

This is the last year in which SSIW will be responsible for inspecting voluntary children's homes and voluntary adoption agencies. In April 2002, responsibility will pass to the Care Standards Inspectorate.

Voluntary children's homes: Each home will receive one announced and one unannounced inspection visit during the year.

General notes

Selection of authorities: The selection of authorities for main service inspections (children's and adult services) and joint reviews follows the previously announced five-year plan (attached). Selection of authorities for thematic inspection fieldwork and for youth offender team inspections is based on a number of factors, including other inspection commitments. Authorities will be notified as soon as practical.

Best Value: Whenever possible, SSIW will inspect Best Value reviews of social services alongside other inspections. The joint review team will inspect Best Value reviews completed in the year preceding the joint review.

Inspection timetable: A provisional timetable is appended to this notice [to follow]. Dates are subject to revision, for example to take into account changed Best Value timetables or to respond to particular concerns. SSIW will consult with local authorities and other inspected bodies over any proposed changes.

Inspection judgements: SSIW will adopt the practice of expressing overall judgements in a two-dimensional grid, similar to that used in joint review reports. Best Value inspection reports will use the grid set out in *Best Value Inspection in Wales*.

Richard Tebboth

Deputy Chief Inspector

March 2001