

**A summary of the Care Inspectorate Inspections of Day Care of Children,
June 2018 - November 2018****Report by Maria Lloyd, Acting Head of Education****1 Purpose of Report**

The purpose of this report, which was submitted to Cabinet on 26 February 2019, is to advise that a range of Early Learning and Childcare settings for three and four year olds were inspected by the Care Inspectorate in the above time period, including private nurseries and local authority settings. This report provides a summary of the outcomes of the inspections of the following settings:

Cornbank St James Primary School Nursery, Rosewell Primary School Nursery, Chapter One Childcare Shawfair House, Cranston Country Nursery, Milton Bridge Nursery, Wizkidz Nursery, Lasswade School Nursery Class, Clover Country Nursery, Acre Wood Nurseries Ltd, St Andrew's RC Primary Nursery, Sacred Heart Primary School Nursery, Newtongrange Primary School Nursery and King's Park Primary School Nursery.

2 Background

2.1 A total of 13 inspections took place in the time period from 26th June 2018 to 22nd November 2018. The reports were published in that time period and have been distributed to all Elected Members and Church Representatives on the Cabinet for their information. Reports are published on the Care Inspectorate website <http://www.careinspectorate.com/>.

2.2 During the inspections, the Care Inspectorate gather evaluations of 4 core Quality Indicators to keep track of how well all Scottish Early Learning and Childcare settings are doing, these are:

- Quality of care and support
- Quality of environment
- Quality of staffing
- Quality of Leadership and Management

A setting may be inspected on two or more Indicators. A six-point scale is used to describe the quality of the setting:

6	Excellent	Outstanding or sector leading
5	Very good	Major strengths
4	Good	Important strengths, with some areas for improvement
3	Adequate	Strengths just outweigh weaknesses
2	Weak	Important weaknesses – priority action required
1	Unsatisfactory	Major weaknesses – urgent remedial action required

Summary of inspection grades: (See Appendix 1 for the inspection grades for individual settings)

Quality Indicator	Total no. of settings inspected on this indicator	Excellent	Very good	Good	Adequate	Weak	Unsatisfactory
Care and support	13	0	8	4	1	0	0
Environment	7	0	5	2	0	0	0
Staffing	6	0	3	3	0	0	0
Leadership and Management	2	0	1	0	1	0	0

2.3 The following common key strengths were indicated by the inspection teams:

- Practitioners know the children well and respond to their needs, interests and stages of development.
- Regular meetings are held to discuss children's progress and development. This information is shared with parents/carers.
- Practitioners are skilled and confident in supporting children with additional needs and refer on to other agencies appropriately.
- Practitioners ask open ended questions to extend learning.
- Practitioners provide a rich learning environment that is safe, stimulating and welcoming where children have a sense of belonging with key attachments.

2.4 The Care Inspectorate has a duty to support improvement and this informs how and when they make requirements and recommendations to a setting following an inspection.

- A requirement is a statement which sets out what a care service must do to improve outcomes for people who use services and must be linked to a breach in the Public Service Reform (Scotland) Act 2010, its regulations, or orders made under the Act, or a condition of registration.
- A recommendation is a statement that sets out actions that a care service provider should take to improve or develop the quality of the service, but where failure to do so would not directly result in enforcement.
- It is significant to note that no Midlothian settings received a requirement. Two settings received recommendations and these recommendations were met within agreed timescales.

3 Report Implications

3.1 Resource

There are no financial and human resource implications associated with this report.

3.2 Risk

The Care Inspectorate visit a sample of Early Learning and Childcare settings each year to find out how they are performing. A report is published which informs parents about the key strengths of the setting, its capacity for further improvement and sets out the main points for action.

Following the publication of that report further visits may be made to the setting by Midlothian Council's Early Years Team to assist improvement and monitor progress.

Monitoring, review and evaluation of progress by Midlothian Council's Early Years Team is the control measure in place to reduce the risk of failure of the setting to demonstrate its capacity to improve. For funded providers a time framed improvement action plan is established in line with the partnership contracts .

3.3 Single Midlothian Plan and Business Transformation

Themes addressed in this report:

- ☐ Community safety
- ☐ Adult health, care and housing
- ☒ Getting it right for every Midlothian child
- ☒ Improving opportunities in Midlothian
- ☐ Sustainable growth
- ☐ Business transformation and Best Value
- ☐ None of the above

3.4 Impact on Performance and Outcomes

The provision of high quality, early learning and childcare supports the delivery of two of the GIRFEMC outcomes for 2017/18 to 2019/20:

- Children and young people are supported to be healthy, happy and reach their potential
- Inequalities in learning outcomes have reduced

The settings will continue to improve their work in line with their improvement plans and Midlothian Council's Early Years Team will continue to challenge and support the settings in relation to developing and implementing a range of quality improvement strategies.

3.5 Adopting a Preventative Approach

The Education (Scotland) Act aims to take preventative action in order to close the attainment versus deprivation gap by implementing key policies and programmes which are designed to target support to children and young people from disadvantaged communities. Midlothian is highly committed to closing the attainment gap which compliments the strategies employed by Midlothian which are highlighted in the National Improvement Framework report which was presented to Council on 3 November 2015.

3.6 Involving Communities and Other Stakeholders

Copies of the reports have been made available to Elected Members, parents and carers of children currently in the settings and other interested parties.

3.7 Ensuring Equalities

The Improvement Plans will be screened for equalities implications.

3.8 Supporting Sustainable Development

The Improvement Plans allow for sustainable development and improvement.

3.9 IT Issues

There are no IT implications.

4.0 Recommendations

Report noted by Cabinet on 15th January.

The Performance, Review and Scrutiny Committee is asked to:

- (i) Note the content of the summary of the inspection reports.
- (ii) Congratulate the pupils, parents and staff connected with these reports.

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Appendix 1
Summary of Care Inspectorate Inspections
June 2018 - November 2018

Setting	Local Authority (LA) or Funded Provider (FP)	Date of inspection	Care and Support	Environment	Staffing	Leadership and Management
Cornbank St James Primary School Nursery	LA	26/6/18	Very Good	Not inspected	Very Good	Not inspected
Rosewell Primary School Nursery	LA	19/6/18	Very Good	Not inspected	Very Good	Not inspected
Chapter One Childcare Shawfair House	FP	10/7/18	Very Good	Very Good	Not inspected	Not inspected
Cranston Country Nursery	FP	25/7/18	Good	Not inspected	Good	Not inspected
Milton Bridge Nursery	FP	16/8/18	Very Good	Good	Not inspected	Not inspected
Wizkidz Nursery	FP	22/8/18	Good	Not inspected	Good	Not inspected

Setting	Local Authority (LA) or Funded Provider (FP)	Date of inspection	Care and Support	Environment	Staffing	Leadership and Management
Lasswade Primary School Nursery Class	LA	7/9/18	Very Good	Very Good	Not inspected	Not inspected
Clover Country Nursery	FP	12/9/18	Good	Not inspected	Not inspected	Adequate
Acre Wood Nurseries Ltd.	FP	17/10/18	Very Good	Very Good	Very Good	Very Good
St Andrew's RC Primary School Nursery	LA	31/10/18	Adequate	Good	Not inspected	Not inspected
Sacred Heart Primary School Nursery	LA	7/11/18	Very Good	Very Good	Not inspected	Not inspected
Newtongrange Primary School Nursery	LA	19/11/18	Good	Not inspected	Good	Not inspected
King's Park Primary School Nursery	LA	22/11/18	Very Good	Very Good	Not inspected	Not inspected