

Update on Midlothian Residential Service Provision

Report by Head of Children's Services

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1** This report outlines the re-design of Midlothian Council's residential services for young people, both with and without complex and enduring needs.

2 Background

- 2.1** Previously, Midlothian Residential Services consisted of three, four-bedded care homes, which could accommodate up to 12 young people in the Penicuik, Dalkeith and Gorebridge areas. The care homes in the Penicuik and Dalkeith areas are purpose built single storey houses while the care home in Gorebridge is on older property on two levels.
- 2.2** The lack of local short and long-stay accommodation for children and young people with complex and enduring needs across Scotland has proved to be a significant challenge in terms of expenditure and assessing resources. Children's Services had previously entered into a successful collaboration with Action for Children that involved them staffing and managing a longer-term house for two young people with complex needs in the Woodburn area.
- 2.3** Co-incidentally, we began to observe a reduction in the usage of our existing 12-bed care home provision for young people. Therefore, through building on the success of an earlier collaboration with Action for Children we entered into another partnership with Barnardos. We agreed that Children's Services would provide the premises and equipment to work with three young people with complex and enduring needs while Barnardos would provide an appropriately skilled and experienced workforce.
- 2.4.** We also ensured that the Care Inspectorate were involved in the discussions at the earliest opportunity and they were able to offer advice about creating additional beds in our existing provision. Midlothian Council residential care home provision for children and young people is:

Dalkeith	5 beds
Gorebridge	4 + 1 emergency bed
Penicuik	4 beds complex care

Report Implications

3.1 Resource

There are no resource issues arising from this report.

3.2 Risk

The Care Inspectorate regulate all care services in Scotland using the [National Care Standards](#), set out by the Scottish Government, as a benchmark for how each type of service should perform. These standards are the minimum that children and young people should expect when using care services.

If the standards are not being fully met, the Care Inspectorate would note this in the inspection report and require the service manager to address these. The Care Inspectorate could impose an additional condition on the service's registration if the provider persistently, substantially or seriously fails to meet the standards or breaches a regulation. They also have the power to issue an improvement notice detailing the required improvement to be made and the timescale for this.

Monitoring, review and evaluation of progress by officers in Children's Services is the control measure in place to reduce the risk of failure of the care services and to demonstrate their capacity to improve.

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 Key Priorities within the Single Midlothian Plan

The re-design of Midlothian Council's Residential Provision for young people is in line with the 'Getting It Right For Every Midlothian Child' approach. The re-design of this service now means we can now offer local provision for children and young people with complex and enduring needs, thus reducing the inequalities they experience.

3.5 Impact on Performance and Outcomes

Performance and outcomes will continue to be measured through the quarterly reporting, review and evaluation process.

3.6 Adopting a Preventative Approach

The Service will continue to improve its work in line with its improvement plan. The Education, Communities and Economy Directorate will continue to challenge and support the Service in relation to developing and implementing a range of quality improvement strategies.

3.7 Involving Communities and Other Stakeholders

We engaged the young people living in the Penicuik property throughout the process. The local communities were also made aware of the impending changes.

3.8 Ensuring Equalities

Any action plans required will be screened for equalities implications.

3.9 Supporting Sustainable Development

The Service Improvement Plan allows for sustainable development and improvement.

3.10 IT Issues

There are no IT issues

4.0 Summary**5.0 Recommendation**

To note the following:

5.1 The residential care home in Penicuik will now provide accommodation for up to four children with complex and enduring needs.

5.2 The care homes in Dalkeith and Gorebridge will provide accommodation for up to ten children who are 'looked after away from home' - this includes the emergency bed.

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