

Inspection of Cuiken Primary School Nursery Class

Report by Mary Smith, Director, Education, Communities and Economy

1 Purpose of Report

This report outlines the outcome of the above unannounced inspection as carried out by the Care Inspectorate in November 2013.

2 Background

2.1 The Care Inspectorate is the independent scrutiny and improvement body for care and children's services and they inspect every registered care service, local authority social work departments and child protection teams on a regular basis to make sure that providers are meeting standards required and are working to improve the quality of care for everyone. Every time they inspect these services they produce an inspection report.

2.2 Cuiken Primary School Nursery Class is moved into the newly built Cuiken Primary School in August 2009. The nursery is registered to care for 60 children in the morning and 60 for the afternoon session.

2.3 Based on the findings of this inspection the Care Inspectorate awarded the following grades:

Quality of Care and Support	Grade 5 – Very Good
Quality of Environment	Grade 5 – Very Good
Quality of Staffing	Grade 5 – Very Good
Quality of Management and Leadership	Grade 5 – Very Good

The report and grades represent the Care Inspectorate assessment of the quality of the areas of performance which were examined during the unannounced inspection.

2.4 The Inspection Team noted the following strengths:

- Cuiken Nursery Class works well to support individual children.
- Staff receive training to give them additional skills and knowledge when working with children with specific needs.
- The staff team are very good at evaluating what works well in the service and what could be developed further.

2.5 The Inspection Team also noted that the service needs to review the information held on children at least every six months with parents. Although the service does this annually legislation states this must be done more frequently. This is to ensure that information held is up to date.

- 2.6 The Care Inspectorate concluded that the nursery offers children very good care and support and that the parents they spoke to were happy with the service.

3 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 and Families 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 Impact on Performance and Outcomes

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

3.5 Adopting a Preventative Approach

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

3.6 Involving Communities and Other Stakeholders

As part of their inspection process the Care Inspectorate sent out 20 questionnaires to the service to give to parents and carers who used the Nursery. Six completed questionnaires were returned. The contents of the questionnaires were used to inform the Care Inspectorate findings and are referred to in the Inspection Report.

The Inspectors also met with parents and carers during the course of the inspection.

Copies of the report have been made available to Elected Members, parents/carers of children in the Centre, staff and other interested parties.

3.7 Ensuring Equalities

An action plan has been prepared to address the areas for improvement recommended in the report. The action plan will be screened for equalities implications.

3.8 Supporting Sustainable Development

The Centre Improvement Plan allows for sustainable development and improvement.

3.9 IT Issues

There are no IT issues arising from this report.

5 Recommendations

Cabinet is asked to:

- (i) note the content of the inspection report;
- (ii) pass this report to the Performance, Review and Scrutiny Committee for its consideration;
- (iii) congratulate the management and staff connected with Cuiken Primary School Nursery Class on the very good work being carried out at the nursery; and
- (iv) note that, whilst acknowledging the very good work being carried out at the nursery, the Council will continue to challenge, support and monitor the service in relation to achieving sustained excellence through further improving performance.

13 December 2013

Report Contact:

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Background Papers:

Care Service Inspection Report dated 4 November 2013

Declaration Box

Instructions: This box must be completed by the author of the report. The box will be copied and saved by the Council Secretariat who will delete it from the report prior to photocopying the agenda.

Title of Report: Inspection of Cuiken PS Nursery Class

Meeting Presented to: Cabinet 14 January 2014

Author of Report: Mary Smith

I confirm that I have undertaken the following actions before submitting this report to the Council Secretariat (Check boxes to confirm):-

- ☒ *All resource implications have been addressed. Any financial and HR implications have been approved by the Head of Finance and Human Resources.*
- ☒ *All risk implications have been addressed.*
- ☒ *All other report implications have been addressed.*
- ☒ *My Director has endorsed the report for submission to the Council Secretariat.*

For Cabinet reports, please advise the Council Secretariat if the report has an education interest. This will allow the report to be located on the Cabinet agenda among the items in which the Religious Representatives are entitled to participate.

Likewise, please advise the Council Secretariat if any report for Midlothian Council has an education interest. The Religious Representatives are currently entitled to attend meetings of the Council in a non-voting observer capacity, but with the right to speak (but not vote) on any education matter under consideration, subject always to observing the authority of the Chair.