

**A summary of the HMIE inspection of Scots Corner Early Learning and
Childcare, June 2024**

Report Michelle Strong, Education Chief Operating Officer

Report for Information

1 Recommendations

The Performance Review and Scrutiny Committee is requested to:

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

2 Purpose of Report/Executive Summary

The report outlines the inspection of Scots Corner Early Learning and Childcare centre.

19 August 2024

**Report Contact: Julie Fox, Quality Improvement Manager
E-mail: julie.fox@midlothian.gov.uk**

3 Background/Main Body of Report

3.1 Scots Corner Early Learning and Childcare centre was inspected by a team of inspectors from Education Scotland in June 2024.

3.2 Education Scotland is responsible for inspecting education settings throughout Scotland. This inspection was a full model inspection using core quality indicators from How Good is Our Early Learning and Childcare;

		ELC	Evaluation
QI	1.3	Leadership of Change	good
QI	2.3	Learning, teaching and assessment	good
QI	3.1	Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	very good
QI	3.2	Securing children's progress	good

3.3 Identified strengths of the setting

The inspection team found the following strengths in the setting's work:

- The manager's leadership and focus on wellbeing of all children, families and practitioners. Together, the whole team ensure a very positive and nurturing ethos throughout nursery life. They provide strong support to children and families when a parent is deployed to work away from home for extended periods of time.
- Children who are happy and achieve well through a broad range of enjoyable learning and play experiences both indoors and outdoors. As a result, they engage confidently in conversation with adults and their peers.
- Senior leaders and practitioners are highly reflective, undertaking research about their practice and ongoing professional learning to support improvements in practice.
- The strong relationships with parents and the diverse range of partners who support children's learning and needs. Parents and partners value highly the welcome and open approach from all, with a key focus on supporting children.

3.4 Identified areas for improvement

The following areas for improvement were identified:

- Senior leaders should refine approaches to leading and monitoring change and improvements, to become more focused and a key part of regular routines. In doing so, they should ensure their changes and improvements are making clear differences to children's experiences and outcomes.
- Senior leaders should continue to develop further their approaches to assessing and tracking children's learning and achievements across the curriculum. There is a need to support children to secure greater progress over time.

3.5 Conclusion

The local authority has confidence that Scots Corner ELC has sufficient capacity for continuous improvement. The setting's Quality Improvement Manager will continue to monitor improvement through the quality improvement process and annual ELC quality and improvement plan.

4 Report Implications (Resource, Digital and Risk)

4.1 Resource

There are no resource implications.

4.2 Digital

There are no digital implications.

4.3 Risk

Education Scotland's team of Inspectors visit a sample of education settings every year to find out how they are performing. A report is published which informs parents about the key strengths of the setting and its capacity for further improvement.

Following the publication of the report further visits may be made to the setting, by the Education Authority to assist improvement and monitor progress.

Monitoring, review and evaluation of progress by central officers in the Education Team is the control measure in place to reduce the risk of failure of settings to demonstrate their capacity to improve.

4.4 Ensuring Equalities (if required a separate IIA must be completed)

4.4 Additional Report Implications (See Appendix A)

Appendices

Appendix A – Additional Report Implications

Appendix B – Background Papers: [Scots Corner ELC inspection report](#)

APPENDIX A – Report Implications

A.1 Key Priorities within the Single Midlothian Plan

Themes addressed in this report:

Getting it right for every Midlothian child
Improving opportunities in Midlothian

A.2 Key Drivers for Change

Key drivers addressed in this report:

- Holistic Working
- Hub and Spoke
- Modern
- Sustainable
- Transformational
- Preventative
- Asset-based
- Continuous Improvement
- One size fits one
- None of the above

A.3 Key Delivery Streams

Key delivery streams addressed in this report:

- One Council Working with you, for you
- Preventative and Sustainable
- Efficient and Modern
- Innovative and Ambitious
- None of the above

A.4 Delivering Best Value

Noted within.

A.5 Involving Communities and Other Stakeholders

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

A.6 Impact on Performance and Outcomes

The provision of high quality, early learning and childcare supports the delivery of two of the GIRFEMC outcomes for 2023 to 2024:

- 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 plan and Midlothian Council's central education officers will continue to challenge and support the setting in relation to developing and implementing a range of quality improvement strategies.

A.7 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.

A.8 Supporting Sustainable Development

The ELC Improvement Plan allows for sustainable development and improvement.