

**Inspection of St Mary's 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 St Mary's Primary School Nursery Class is registered to care for 30 children aged 3 years to entry into primary school.

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 4 – 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:

- Children are welcomed into a happy, learning environment where they enjoy a wide variety of stimulating and challenging experiences.
- Staff are enthusiastic and caring and work well together to offer support to children and their families to offer support to children and their families to ensure the best outcomes for children.

2.5 The Inspection Team asked the nursery to ensure that parents are provided with questionnaires to allow them to provide their ideas and feedback on the nursery.

- 2.6 The Care Inspectorate concluded that the Nursery Teacher and staff provide very good quality care and support for the children who attend the nursery. It was clear to them that staff value the individual child and provide a warm and caring environment.

### **3 Report Implications**

#### **3.1 Resource**

There are no resource implications 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 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 St Mary's 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.

**23 January 2014**

#### **Report Contact:**

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#### **Background Papers:**

Care Service Inspection Report dated 11 November 2013

