

Inspection of Midlothian Council's Young People's Care Home**Report by Joan Tranent, CSWO & Chief Officer Children's Services, Partnerships and Communities****Report for Information****1 Recommendations**

Cabinet are asked to note the findings of the latest unannounced Care Inspectorate report which took place between 21 and 23 November 2022.

2 Purpose of Report/Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to draw Cabinet's attention in relation to the inspection of our two local care homes for young people and the grades awarded. All care inspection reports are published on the Care Inspectorate website and available to the public.

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3 Background

3.1 The Care Inspectorate is responsible for inspecting care services throughout Scotland. They do so using the Health and Social Care Standards. The headline standards are:

- 1: I experience high quality care and support that is right for me.
- 2: I am fully involved in all decisions about my care and support.
- 3: I have confidence in the people who support and care for me.
- 4: I have confidence in the organisation providing my care and support.
- 5: I experience a high quality environment if the organisation provides the premises.

The inspection uses a *descriptive* statement and/or statements to evaluate how the service meets the 5 higher-level standards. The final grade is then calculated using an overall six-point scale ranging from unsatisfactory (1) to excellent (6).

3.2 For the purposes of this unannounced inspection the *descriptive* statement used was as follows:

How well do we support children and young people's rights and wellbeing

3.3 The outcome of the Inspection was that the service was awarded an overall Grade 5, see below:

How well do we support children and young people's rights and wellbeing?		5 - Very Good
7.1	Children and young people are safe, feel loved and get the most out of life	5 - Very Good
7.2	Leaders and staff have the capacity and resources to meet and champion children and young people's needs and rights	5 - Very Good

The inspection determined that the overall practice was very good and that there was ample evidence to suggest the young people were well cared for. During the verbal feedback the inspector advised that the young people he spoke with felt 'loved and safe'. The following are some of the key messages:

- Young People were experiencing positive outcomes.
- The service has a clear model of relationship based practice.
- Staff approached care in a trauma informed way.
- Both houses provided homely and welcoming environments.
- Management have a clear vision for service improvement.

3.4 Although this was an unannounced inspection, the findings and positive verbal feedback was a great result for a team who have worked hard to nurture and improve the lives of the vulnerable young people they care for. The external inspection was able to confirm qualities previously recognised by the Council during the pandemic. In doing so, it endorses Midlothian's overall value base that underpins our ethos in caring for our most vulnerable children.

4 Report Implications (Resource, Digital and Risk)

4.1 Resource

There are no risk implications.

4.2 Digital

There are no risk implications.

4.3 Risk

There are no risk implications.

4.4 Ensuring Equalities

The service mission is to care for looked after and accommodated children and young people

4.5 Additional Report Implications (See Appendix A)

See Appendix A

Appendices

**Appendix B – Care Inspectorate Report; Midlothian Residential Service for Young People
Care Home Service**

APPENDIX A – Report Implications

A.1 Key Priorities within the Single Midlothian Plan

The inspection feedback endorses our local approach to delivering services

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

Our local care home for children and young people deliver best value which is evidenced through this quality inspections and the cost of local services

A.5 Involving Communities and Other Stakeholders

Staff work with many stakeholders including young people and their families to deliver holistic, sustainable services

A.6 Impact on Performance and Outcomes

Grade is above the current performance measure

A.7 Adopting a Preventative Approach

Not applicable

A.8 Supporting Sustainable Development

Not applicable