

Inspection of Mayfield Nursery School

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 May 2013.

2 Background

- 2.1 Mayfield Nursery School is located within the grounds of Mayfield Primary School and is registered to accommodate 60 children aged three to entry to primary school in the morning and 60 children in the afternoon. At the time of the inspection there were 45 children at the morning session and 43 children at the afternoon session. The main purpose of the service is to provide a broad and balanced curriculum for all learners. They also work to support the development and progress of children.
- 2.2 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.
- 2.3 Based on the findings of this inspection the Care Inspectorate awarded the following grades:

Quality of Care and Support	Grade 6 – Excellent
Quality of Environment	Grade 6 – Excellent
Quality of Staffing	Grade 6 – Excellent
Quality of Management and Leadership	Grade 6 – Excellent

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:

- Mayfield Nursery School provides an excellent standard of care and support to the children and families who attend.
- Staff are enthusiastic and skilled in their interactions with children and at creating an exciting learning environment.

- The activities promote children's continual development and encourage new and exciting experiences.
- The Headteacher shares her experience and knowledge with the staff. She is motivational with complete commitment to the work she and her nursery team do.

2.5 The Inspection Team also noted that Mayfield Nursery School should continue to monitor and maintain the excellent quality service, and that they should ensure that they continue to involve children and parents in identifying areas of improvement and implement action plans to address these.

2.6 The Care Inspectorate concluded that the nursery offers children a wealth of experiences and that the Headteacher and staff are committed to children's continual learning and progress. They attend ongoing training to support their work. The Headteacher and staff also provide an excellent quality of responsive care for the children and their families. They were meeting all of their stated aims.

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 25 questionnaires to the service to give to parents and carers who used the Nursery. Seven 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 Mayfield Nursery School on the excellent work being carried out at the nursery; and
- (iv) note that, whilst acknowledging the excellent 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.

25 September 2013

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Background Papers:

Care Service Inspection Report dated 15 May 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 Hawthorn Children and Families Centre*

Meeting Presented to: *Cabinet 16 April 2013*

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.