

**Inspection of Midfield Young Peoples Centre**

Report by Don Ledingham, Director, Education and Children's Services

**1 Purpose of Report**

This report outlines the outcome of the above inspection as carried out by the Care Inspectorate in June and July 2012.

**2 Background**

- 2.1 Midfield Young Peoples Centre provides care for a maximum of eight young people who are aged between 10 and 18 years who cannot safely stay with their own family, or in any substitute family, and whose needs would best be met in a residential setting. Midfield is a purpose built unit in a rural setting.
- 2.2 The Care Inspectorate is the independent scrutiny and improvement body for care and children's services and 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.

**3 Care Service Inspection Report**

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

Quality of Care and Support	Grade 3 – Adequate
Quality of Environment	Grade 3 – Adequate
Quality of Staffing	Grade 4 – Good
Quality of Management and Leadership	Grade 2 - Weak

The report and grades represent the Care Inspectorate assessment of the quality of the areas of performance which were examined during the unannounced inspection. It is noted in the report that all requirements and recommendations arising from the last inspection in January 2012 have been met.

- 3.2 The Inspection Team noted the following strengths:

- The staff are very good at recognising the needs of the young people and are caring and friendly towards them.
- Staff are creative in making best use of all the facilities available in the home.

- The young people continue to benefit from the involvement of the Looked After Children's Teacher.

3.3 The Inspection Team reported that the authority could do better in the following areas:

- The provider needs to consider how they can provide stable long term leadership and ensure that all staff are committed to the continuing vision and progression of the service.
- The provider needs to ensure that incident records and other recordings are monitored to ensure that they are of sufficient quality and actions are identified and carried out.

## **4 Conclusion**

The Care Inspectorate concluded that:

- The young people at Midfield were happy with the care they receive. They had good relationships with staff.
- The service provider was committed to working with the Care Inspectorate to identify areas for improvement and taking action to resolve these
- Both the staff and young people were looking forward to the development of the new homes which will replace Midfield and were keen to influence these in any way they could.

## **5 Report Implications**

### **5.1 Resource**

As a result of recommendations in the report, the Head of Children and Families is currently considering changes to management arrangements. Any additional costs arising from these changes will be met from existing budgets.

### **5.2 Risk**

The Care Inspectorate is the independent scrutiny and improvement body for care and children's services and 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.

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.

### **5.3 Policy**

#### **Strategy**

The care service for young people in Midlothian is changing with the introduction of 2 smaller four bed units which will be operation by June 2013.

In the interim the unit will continue to improve its work in line with its improvement plan and the Education and Children's Services Division will continue to challenge and support the unit in relation to developing and implementing a range of quality improvement strategies.

#### **Consultation**

Copies of the report have been made available to Elected Members, young people and staff in the unit and other interested parties.

#### **Equalities**

An action plan will be prepared to address the areas for improvement recommended in the report. The action plan will be screened for equalities implications. An Equalities Impact Assessment will be undertaken in preparation for the move to the new 4 bedded units.

#### **Sustainability**

The Unit Improvement Plan allows for sustainable development and improvement.

### **6 IT Issues**

There are no IT issues arising from this report.

### **7 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; and

- (iii) congratulate the young people and staff connected with Midfield Young Peoples Centre on the key strengths highlighted in the report;

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