

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL

Executive Sub-Committee of Lifelong Learning Committee

21 March 2022

STANDARDS AND QUALITY IN SCHOOLS, LEARNING COMMUNITIES AND PRE-SCHOOL CENTRES/DAY CARE OF CHILDREN

Report by Executive Director (Education and Children's Services)
(Report No 22/58)

PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report sets out the key findings following inspections and evaluations of early learning and childcare (ELC) settings undertaken by the Care Inspectorate on the day care of children since the Executive Sub-Committee of Lifelong Learning Committee on 1 November 2021. It also reports on follow-through inspections undertaken by Education Scotland in 2021.

1. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

- 1.1 This report sets out the key findings and areas for improvement following inspections of Perth and Kinross Council (PKC) ELC settings (including partner providers) by the Care Inspectorate.
- 1.2 Specifically, the report sets out the findings of inspections which have been published by the Care Inspectorate since the Executive Sub-Committee of Lifelong Learning Committee on 1 November 2021.
- 1.3 **Early learning and childcare inspections**
 - 1.3.1 ELC settings are subject to inspections from the Care Inspectorate and Education Scotland and can experience joint inspections where both scrutiny bodies evaluate the quality of the provision.
 - 1.3.2 For ELC inspections conducted by Education Scotland, the following How Good Is Our Early Learning and Childcare (HGIOELC) Quality Indicators (QI) are evaluated on a six-point scale:

How Good is Our Early Learning and Childcare (HGIOELC) Quality Indicators (QI)	ELC Full Model	ELC Short Model	Evaluated
1.3 Leadership of change	√		√
2.3 Learning, teaching and assessment	√	√	√
3.2 Securing children's progress	√	√	√
3.1 Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	√		√
2.2 Curriculum	√		
2.7 Partnerships	√		
Additional QI chosen by ELC setting	√		

- 1.3.3 Regulated care services in Scotland have been inspected using a framework of quality themes, quality statements and the Health and Social Care Standards. Services are visited on an unannounced basis at least every three years. Services are given evaluations based on the findings at each inspection and these are made public via the Care Inspectorate's website.
- 1.3.4 Services are measured against the [National Care Standards](#) and quality themes:
- Quality of Care and Support;
 - Quality of Environment;
 - Quality of Staffing; and
 - Quality of Management and Leadership.
- 1.3.5 Each quality theme is graded on a 6-point scale in which 1 = unsatisfactory, 2 = weak, 3 = adequate, 4 = good, 5 = very good and 6 = excellent.
- 1.3.6 Following the publication of Funding Follows the Child and the National Standard for Early Learning and Childcare Providers: Principles and Practice, all ELC setting must gain evaluations of good or better to be able to provide funded ELC in partnership with the local authority.
- 1.3.7 Following an inspection, the Care Inspectorate may set out a series of:
- **Recommendations:** Statements that set out actions the care service provider should take to improve or develop the quality of the service; and
 - **Requirements:** Statements which set out what is required of the care service provider to comply with relevant legislation.
- 1.3.8 Care service providers must submit an action plan to the Care Inspectorate addressing any requirements and recommendations identified. Progress against the action plan is monitored by the Care Inspectorate through annual return and self-assessment forms submitted by the care service provider, and through subsequent inspection.
- 1.3.9 A new quality framework for day care of children, childminding and school aged childcare was published by the Care Inspectorate in July 2021 and has been used in test inspections, without published grades, before full implementation. A date is to be confirmed for full roll out of this framework.

1.4 Education Scotland Inspections

- 1.4.1 In September 2021, Education Scotland announced that they will adopt a phased approach to resuming scrutiny activity during 2021/22. However, in December 2021, taking the ongoing challenges schools face dealing with COVID-19 and stakeholder views into account, an adjusted plan was announced. From mid-February 2022, if COVID-19 conditions allow, HM Inspectors will carry out 'recovery' visits to support the education sector as it continues to respond to the impact of the current pandemic. They will not report on specific quality indicators or give grades as part of the visit.

- 1.4.2 In this report, follow through reports related to inspections that took place before the COVID-19 pandemic are considered.

2. RECENTLY PUBLISHED REPORTS

2.1 Education Scotland Inspections

- 2.1.1 Since the Executive Sub-Committee of Lifelong Learning Committee on 1 November 2021, there have been two follow up reports published by Education Scotland.¹ These are:

- **Follow Through Inspection of Perth Grammar School**

Perth Grammar School was inspected in November 2019 and reported to the Executive Sub-Committee of Lifelong Learning Committee on 2 November 2020 ([Report No. 20/205 refers](#)). A Follow Through Inspection took place in November 2021 and Education Scotland will make no more visits in connection with it. The inspection letter can be found in Appendix 2. At the time of the 2021 pupil census (September 2021), Perth Grammar School had 787 secondary school children enrolled. The school had a staffing complement of 69.6 Full time employees (FTE) teachers and 21.2 FTE non-teaching staff.

- **Follow Through Inspection of North Muirton Primary School**

North Muirton Primary School was inspected in November 2019 and reported to the Executive Sub-Committee of Lifelong Learning Committee on 2 November 2020 ([Report No. 20/206 refers](#)). A Follow Through Inspection took place in November 2021 and Education Scotland will make no more visits in connection with it. The inspection letter can be found in Appendix 3. At the time of the 2021 pupil census (September 2021), North Muirton Primary School had 231 primary school children and 67 nursery children enrolled. The primary school had a staffing complement of 16.4 FTE teachers and 11.94 FTE non-teaching staff.

2.2 Care Inspectorate Inspections - Day Care of Children

- 2.2.1 A total of 11 inspections have been undertaken and published² by the Care Inspectorate since the Executive Sub-Committee of Lifelong Learning Committee on 1 November 2021. 2 of these inspections were undertaken using the new quality framework under test, and as a result, grades are not published. A follow up visit took place in 1 setting.
- 2.2.2 Of these reports, none required to be reported as an exception (where any grading has been awarded an evaluation of unsatisfactory, weak, or excellent).
- 2.2.3 For the 9 published inspections in total, of the 36 indicators inspected, 1 received an 'adequate' grading, 13 received 'good' evaluations and 22 received 'very good' evaluations.

¹ As of 18 January 2022

² As of 31 December 2021

2.2.4 Craigie Park Nursery was inspected in July 2021 ([Care Inspectorate report for Craigie Park Nursery](#)) and awarded weak and unsatisfactory quality gradings. Support was provided by the Early Years Team. A decision was made to terminate their contract for the delivery of funded hours of ELC with a final termination date of 15 October 2021. The owner closed the business on 8 October 2021.

2.3 Care Inspectorate Inspection - Childminding Services

2.3.1 From academic year 2019/20, childminders commenced providing funded hours within the Council's ELC expansion plan for 1140 hours. All registered childminders are inspected by the Care Inspectorate and graded on four quality themes:

- Quality of Care and Support;
- Quality of Environment;
- Quality of Staffing; and
- Quality of Management and Leadership.

2.3.2 Inspections of those childminders that have funded places in partnership with the Council will be included in this report by exception, as with other childcare settings. No inspections require reporting in this way to date. Performance and benchmarking information will be developed as numbers of these increase.

3 PERFORMANCE SUMMARY

3.1 Inspections: Day Care of Children

3.1.1 This section provides a summary of the performance of ELC settings in inspections carried out by the Care Inspectorate. A total of 11 Day Care services across Perth and Kinross have been inspected by the Care Inspectorate since the beginning of the financial year 2021/22.

3.1.2 Table 1 below gives a summary of the evaluations for each quality theme. A summary list of inspections as well as benchmarking over a longer time period (since financial year 2017/18) against national and comparator data can be found in Appendix 1. This also includes an analysis of overall evaluation statistics to give the current position of inspections.

Table 1: Number of Day Care of Children evaluations received in PKC from 2021/22 to date.

QI Grading	Quality of Care & Support	Quality of Environment	Quality of Staffing	Quality of Management & Leadership	All QIs
Excellent	0	0	0	0	0
Very Good	7	4	7	4	22
Good	2	5	2	4	13
Satisfactory	0	0	0	1	1
Weak	0	0	0	0	0
Unsatisfactory	0	0	0	0	0
Total	9	9	9	9	36

- 3.1.3 There is an expectation from PKC that ELC funded providers meet “good” evaluations in all quality indicators. Therefore, where an ELC provider receives less than a “good” evaluation, the Quality Improvement Officer for the ELC establishment works with the Headteacher/Manager/Leader to develop an action plan which will secure improvement in the areas of identified need.

4. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 Inspection reports provide further information on the standards and quality in our ELC settings and schools. This report sets out the outcomes of Care Inspectorate reports of ELC settings inspected and published since 1 November 2021, and follow-through reports from Education Scotland for two schools previously inspected in 2019.
- 4.2 It is recommended that the Committee:
- (i) Considers and comments as appropriate on the contents of the report.

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Approved

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1. IMPLICATIONS, ASSESSMENTS, CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

Strategic Implications	Yes / None
Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement	Yes
Corporate Plan	Yes
Resource Implications	
Financial	None
Workforce	None
Asset Management (land, property, IST)	None
Assessments	
Equality Impact Assessment	None
Strategic Environmental Assessment	None
Sustainability (community, economic, environmental)	None
Legal and Governance	None
Risk	None
Consultation	
Internal	Yes
External	None
Communication	
Communications Plan	Yes

1. Strategic Implications

Community Plan/Single Outcome Agreement

- 1.1 This section sets out how the proposals relate to the delivery of the Perth and Kinross Community Plan/Single Outcome Agreement in terms of the following priorities:

- (i) Giving every child the best start in life;
- (ii) Developing educated, responsible and informed citizens;
- (iii) Promoting a prosperous, inclusive and sustainable economy;
- (iv) Supporting people to lead independent, healthy and active lives; and
- (v) Creating a safe and sustainable place for future generations.

This report relates to Objectives No. (i) and (ii).

Corporate Plan

- 1.2 This section sets out how the proposals relate to the achievement of the Council's Corporate Plan Objectives.

- (i) Giving every child the best start in life;
- (ii) Developing educated, responsible and informed citizens;

- (iii) Promoting a prosperous, inclusive and sustainable economy;
- (iv) Supporting people to lead independent, healthy and active lives; and
- (v) Creating a safe and sustainable place for future generations.

This report relates to Objective No. (i) and (ii).

- 1.3 The report also links to the Education & Children's Services Vision, Values and Priorities in respect of the following key Priority area:

- Best Start

2. Resource Implications

Financial

- 2.1 Not applicable.

Workforce

- 2.2 Not applicable.

Asset Management (land, property, IT)

- 2.3 Not applicable.

3. Assessments

Equality Impact Assessment

- 3.1 This section reflects that the proposals have been considered under the Corporate Equalities Impact Assessment process (EqIA) with the following outcome:

- (i) Assessed as **not relevant** for the purposes of EqIA.

Strategic Environmental Assessment

- 3.2 The Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 places a duty on the Council to identify and assess the environmental consequences of its proposals.

This section reflects that the proposals have been considered under the Act and no further action is required as it does not qualify as a PPS as defined by the Act and is therefore exempt.

Sustainability

- 3.3 Not applicable.

Legal and Governance

3.4 Not applicable.

3.5 Not applicable.

Risk

3.6 Not applicable.

4. Consultation

Internal

4.1 Relevant Heads of Service and Service Managers within Education and Children's Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

External

4.2 Not applicable.

5. Communication

5.1 Schools and ELC settings communicate the findings of the inspection reports with their parents and stakeholders using their own communication channels. Other continuing engagement activities undertaken by Care Inspectorate or PKC will also be reported to parents and stakeholders via the settings own reporting processes.

2. BACKGROUND PAPERS

2.1 No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (and not containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to a material extent in preparing the above report.

3. APPENDICES

3.1 Appendix 1 – Summary of Care Inspectorate Day Care of Children Inspections
Appendix 2 – Perth Grammar School - Education Scotland Letter
Appendix 3 – North Muirton Primary School - Education Scotland Letter