

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL

Executive Sub-Committee Of Learning & Families Committee

20 March 2023

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 23/97)

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 This report sets out the key findings following inspections of schools and nurseries by Education Scotland/HM Inspectors of Education (HMIE) and of early learning and childcare (ELC) settings undertaken by the Care Inspectorate in the day care of children. Reporting is of inspections reported since the Executive Sub-Committee of Learning & Families Committee on 29 August 2022.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Executive Sub-Committee of the Learning & Families Committee:
- Considers and comments as appropriate on the contents of the report.

3. STRUCTURE OF REPORT

- 3.1 This report is structured over the following sections:
- Section 4: Background
 - Section 5: Recently Published Reports
 - Section 6: Performance Summary
 - Section 7: Conclusion
 - Appendices

4. BACKGROUND

4.1 Education Scotland/HMIE Inspections

- 4.1.1 Education Scotland's programme of routine inspections was paused in March 2020 in response to COVID-19. Inspections resumed in September 2022 across all local authorities, selecting early years settings and schools for inspection on a proportionate basis as previously, using a sampling approach.
- 4.1.2 As required for the National Improvement Framework, HMIE will report on and provide grades for the following Quality Indicators (QIs) as part of full model inspections:

- QI 1.3 – leadership of change;
- QI 2.3 – learning, teaching and assessment;
- QI 3.1 – ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion; and
- QI 3.2 – raising attainment and achievement.

Short model inspections focus on QIs 2.3 and 3.2.

4.2 Early Learning and Childcare Inspections

4.2.1 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.

4.2.2 An updated [Quality Framework for Day Care of Children, Childminding and School aged Childcare](#) was published by the Care Inspectorate in July 2021 and was used in test inspections, without published grades, before full implementation. This framework is now in place for inspections carried out since 1 June 2022.

4.2.3 The framework is framed around four key questions. Each of these include a number of QIs for actual inspection which are:

- How good is our care, play and learning?;
- How good is our setting?;
- How good is our leadership?; and
- How good is our staff team?

The final key question is: What is our overall capacity for improvement? This requires a global judgement based on evidence and evaluations from all the other key areas but is not evaluated specifically.

4.2.4 Each QI is graded on a 6-point scale in which 1 = Unsatisfactory, 2 = Weak, 3 = Adequate, 4 = Good, 5 = Very Good and 6 = Excellent, and the overall key question evaluation is based on the lowest QI rating if more than one is completed. Following the publication of Funding Follows the Child and the National Standard for Early Learning and Childcare Providers: Principles and Practice, all ELC settings must gain evaluations of good or better to be able to provide funded ELC in partnership with the local authority.

4.2.5 Recommendations and requirements may follow an inspection.

- **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.

4.2.6 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.

5. RECENTLY PUBLISHED REPORTS

5.1 Education Scotland/HMIE Inspections

5.1.1 Since the Executive Sub-Committee of Learning & Families Committee on 29 August 2022, the following reports have been published by Education Scotland¹:

- **Crieff Primary School and Nursery Class**

Crieff Primary School and Nursery Class was inspected in November 2022 by Education Scotland. Education Scotland will make no further visits in connection with this inspection. The evaluations against the QIs are shown in Appendix 1. At the time of the 2022 pupil census, the school had 387 primary school children and 54 nursery children enrolled. The primary school had a staffing complement of 23.8 full-time employees (FTE) teachers. The [Summarised inspection findings for Crieff Primary School](#) is available online.

- **Perth Grammar School**

Perth Grammar School was inspected in November 2019. A follow-through visit took place in November 2021 (both reported previously to the Executive Sub-Committee of Lifelong Learning Committee). Education Scotland requested a report on the school's progress, and this is included as Appendix 2 along with their final letter to parents. Education Scotland will make no further visits in connection with this inspection.

5.2 Care Inspectorate Inspections - Day Care of Children

5.2.1 A total of 19 inspections have been undertaken and published² by the Care Inspectorate since the Executive Sub-Committee of Learning & Families Committee on 29 August 2022.

5.2.2 Of these reports, one required to be reported as an exception (where any grading has been awarded an evaluation of unsatisfactory, weak, or excellent). Daisy Chain Nursery School in Perth was initially inspected in May 2022 and awarded one 'Weak' quality grading. The first follow up inspection was carried out in September 2022, with a further follow up inspection carried out in January 2023. All three inspection reports are included as Appendix 3a, Appendix 3b and Appendix 3c.

5.2.3 The inspection of Robert Douglas Memorial Primary School Nursery in November 2022 is notable for receiving an excellent grading for the area of 'Nurturing Care and Support', although the overall grading for the Key Question; 'How good is our Care, Learning and Play' remained 'Very Good'.

¹ As at 7 Feb 2023

5.2.4 For the 19 published inspections in total, of the 76 indicators inspected, 1 received a 'Weak' grading, 11 received an 'Adequate' grading, 29 received 'Good' evaluations & 35 received 'Very Good' evaluations.

5.3 Care Inspectorate Inspections - Childminding Services

5.3.1 From academic year 2019/2020, childminders commenced providing funded hours within the Perth and Kinross Council (PKC) ELC expansion plan for 1140 hours. All registered childminders are inspected by the Care Inspectorate using the updated [Quality Framework for Daycare of Children, Childminding and School-aged Childcare](#).

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

6. PERFORMANCE SUMMARY

6.1 Inspections: Education Scotland/HMIE

6.1.1 This section provides a summary of the performance of ELC settings and schools since August 2016 in inspections undertaken by Education Scotland. Since August 2016, the inspection model has changed with QI 1.1 'self-evaluation for self-improvement' no longer being evaluated.

6.1.2 24 ELC providers and 27 primary schools have been inspected since the beginning of academic session 2016/2017. There have been two secondary school inspections carried out in the same period.

6.1.3 Tables 1a and 1b below gives a summary of the evaluations for each QI for all ELC and primary school inspections.

Table 1a: Number of QI Evaluations - 2016/2017 to date - ELC

ELC						
QI Grading	1.3 Leadership of change	2.3 Learning, teaching & assessment	3.2 Securing children's progress	3.1 Ensuring wellbeing, equality & inclusion	1.1 Self-evaluation for self-improvement	All QIs
Excellent	-	-	-	-	-	-
Very Good	4	5	5	6	-	20
Good	8	9	12	9	1	39
Satisfactory	4	4	2	1	1	12
Weak	-	1	2	-	-	3
Unsatisfactory	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	16	19	21	16	2	74

Table 1b: Number of QI Evaluations - 2016/2017 to date – Primary Schools

Primary Schools						
QI Grading	1.3 Leadership of change	2.3 Learning, teaching & assessment	3.2 Raising attainment & achievement	3.1 Ensuring wellbeing, equality & inclusion	1.1 Self- evaluation for self- improvement	All QIs
Excellent	1	-	-	1	-	2
Very Good	5	5	9	6	3	28
Good	5	10	9	7	-	31
Satisfactory	3	4	4	-	1	12
Weak	-	1	2	-	-	3
Unsatisfactory	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	14	20	24	14	4	76

- 6.1.4 In Perth and Kinross, there is an expectation that ELC provision and schools meet “Good” evaluations in all QIs. This is higher than the national “Satisfactory” expectation. Therefore, where a school or ELC setting receives less than a “Good” evaluation, the Quality Improvement Officer for the school/setting works with the Headteacher/Manager to develop an action plan which will secure improvement in the areas of identified need.
- 6.1.5 Benchmarking data for ELC and primary inspections up to November 2022, using national and comparator authority information, is shown in Appendix 4. There is not currently sufficient data available on secondary inspections to allow for useful benchmarking.
- 6.1.6 For all ELC QIs evaluated from 2016/2017, to date, 80% were graded as Good or better. This compares with 52% for our comparator authorities and 63% nationally.
- 6.1.7 For all primary school QIs evaluated from 2016/2017, to date, 80% were graded as Good or better. This compares with 53% for our comparator authorities and 62% nationally.

6.2 Inspections: Day Care of Children

- 6.2.1 This section provides a summary of the performance of ELC settings in inspections carried out by the Care Inspectorate. A total of 19-day care services across Perth and Kinross have been inspected by the Care Inspectorate since the beginning of the financial year 2022/2023.
- 6.2.2 Table 2 below gives a summary of the evaluations for each Key Question. A summary list of inspections, as well as benchmarking over a longer time period (since financial year 2022/2023) against national and comparator data, can be found in Appendix 5. This also includes an analysis of overall evaluation statistics to give the current position of inspections.

Table 2: Number of Day Care of Children evaluations received in PKC from 2022/2023 to date

QI Grading	How good is our care, play and learning	How good is our setting	How good is our staff team	How good is our leadership	All QIs
Excellent	0	0	1	0	1
Very Good	10	16	9	10	44
Good	9	5	10	9	34
Satisfactory	4	2	2	4	12
Weak	0	0	1	0	1
Unsatisfactory	0	0	0	0	0
Total	23	23	23	23	92

- 6.2.3 There is an expectation that ELC providers meet “Good” evaluations in all QIs. Therefore, where an ELC provider receives less than a “Good” evaluation, the Service Manager and 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.
- 6.2.4 Perth and Kinross settings perform consistently better than comparator authorities, and the national average, for Care Inspectorate inspections. The current position, for the latest inspection of all settings, is around 95% being rated as good or better, across the indicators inspected. Details are provided in Appendix 5.

7. Conclusion

- 7.1 Inspection reports provide further information on the standards and quality in PKC schools, nurseries and funded partners providing ELC. This report sets out the outcomes of Education Scotland and Care Inspectorate reports of schools and ELC settings inspected and published since 29 August 2022.

The overall performance of schools and ELC settings in inspections is strong, and where necessary, action plans put in place provide evidence of continuous improvement.

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Approved

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1. IMPLICATIONS, ASSESSMENTS, CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

Strategic Implications	Yes/None
Community Plan/Single Outcome Agreement	None
Corporate Plan	None
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	None
External	None
Communication	
Communications Plan	None

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 Objective No. (i)

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)

- 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 N/A

Workforce

- 2.2 N/A

Asset Management (land, property, IT)

- 2.3 N/A

3. Assessments

Equality Impact Assessment

- 3.1 Under the Equality Act 2010, the Council is required to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between equality groups. Carrying out Equality Impact Assessments for plans and policies allows the Council to demonstrate that it is meeting these duties.

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. However, no action is required as the Act does not apply to the matters presented in this report. This is because the Committee are requested to note the contents of the report only and the Committee are not being requested to approve, adopt or agree to an action or to set the framework for future decisions.

Sustainability

- 3.3 Under the provisions of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003, the Council has to discharge its duties in a way which contributes to the achievement of sustainable development. Under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 the Council also has a duty relating to climate change and, in exercising its functions must act:

- In the way best calculated to delivery of the Act's emissions reduction targets.
- In the way best calculated to deliver any statutory adaption programmes.
- In a way that it considers most sustainable.

3.3.1 N/A

Legal and Governance

3.4 N/A

3.5 N/A

Risk

3.6 N/A

4. Consultation

Internal

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

External

4.2 N/A

5. Communication

5.1 N/A

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 - Crieff Primary School and Nursery Class Inspection Report
 Appendix 2 - Perth Grammar School Education Scotland Inspection Letter and Perth and Kinross Council report
 Appendix 3a - Daisy Chain Nursery School Perth Care Inspectorate report (May 2022)
 Appendix 3b - Daisy Chain Nursery School Perth Care Inspectorate report (Sep 2022)
 Appendix 3c - Daisy Chain Nursery School Perth Care Inspectorate report (Jan 2023)
 Appendix 4 - Summary of Education Scotland Inspections
 Appendix 5 - Summary of Care Inspectorate Day Care of Children Inspections