

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE SUB-COMMITTEE OF LEARNING & FAMILIES COMMITTEE

28 AUGUST 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. 23/231)**

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 This report sets out the key findings following inspections of schools and nurseries by Education Scotland/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 15 May 2023.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 It is recommended that the 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/His Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (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. 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 ELC 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?
 - 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 of 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 15 May 2023, the following reports have been published by Education Scotland¹:

- **Ratray Primary School**

Ratray Primary School and Nursery was inspected in February 2023 by Education Scotland. This was a full model inspection, and the evaluations against the QIs are shown in Appendix 1. At the time of the 2023 pupil census, the school had 229 primary school children and 45 nursery children enrolled. The primary school had a staffing complement of 13.65 full time equivalent (FTE) teachers. The detailed [Summarised inspection findings for Ratray Primary School](#) is available online.

- **Invergowrie Primary School and Nursery**

Invergowrie Primary School and Nursery was inspected in March 2023 by Education Scotland. This was a full model inspection, and the evaluations against the QIs are shown in Appendix 2. At the time of the 2023 pupil census, the school had 168 primary school children and 25 nursery children enrolled. The primary school had a staffing complement of 10.2 FTE teachers. The detailed [Summarised inspection findings for Invergowrie Primary School](#) is available online.

- **Auchtergaven Primary School and Nursery**

Auchtergaven Primary School and Nursery was inspected in April 2023 by Education Scotland. This was a full model inspection, and the evaluations against the QIs are shown in Appendix 3. At the time of the 2023 pupil census, the school had 124 primary school children and 14 nursery children enrolled. The primary school had a staffing complement of 7.82 FTE teachers. The detailed [Summarised inspection findings for Auchtergaven Primary School](#) is available online.

- **Pitlochry High School**

Pitlochry High School was inspected in April 2023 by Education Scotland. This was a full model inspection, and the evaluations against the QIs are shown in Appendix 4. At the time of the 2023 pupil census, the school had 192 primary school children and 116 secondary pupils enrolled. The school had a staffing complement of 28.8 FTE teachers. Gradings were given for the entire school and not separately for primary and secondary.

¹ As at 26 Jun 2023

The detailed [Summarised Inspection findings for Pitlochry High School](#) is available online.

The Pitlochry High School Nursery class was not inspected during this visit, as it had been inspected by Care Inspectorate in November 2022 and included in the Executive Sub-Committee of Learning & Families Committee on 20 March 2023.

5.2 Care Inspectorate Inspections - Day Care of Children

- 5.2.1 A total of 13 inspections have been undertaken and published² by the Care Inspectorate since the Executive Sub-Committee of Learning & Families Committee on 15 May 2023.
- 5.2.2 Of these reports, three required to be reported as an exception (where any grading has been awarded an evaluation of unsatisfactory, weak, or excellent). Goodlyburn and City of Perth Early Childhood Centre was inspected in March 2023 and awarded one weak quality grading for 'How good is our setting evaluation'. A follow up inspection will be carried out during 2023. Changes to the toilet facilities have been actioned by Property Services and there have been additional changes to ensure the environment is meeting standards. The inspection report is included as Appendix 5.
- ABC Day Nursery, a private provider in partnership with Perth and Kinross Council (PKC) was inspected in May 2023 and awarded one weak grading for 'How good is our care, play and learning' and one unsatisfactory grading for 'How good is our leadership'. A new manager has been appointed and the Early Years Quality Improvement Officer and Education Support Officer continue to work with the setting and the Care Inspectorate on addressing the action required. The inspection report is included as Appendix 6.
- 5.2.3 The inspection of Inchtute Primary School Nursery in March 2023 is notable for receiving an excellent grading for the area of 'How good is our Leadership'. The inspection report is included as Appendix 7.
- 5.2.4 For the 13 published inspections, of the 52 indicators inspected; 1 received an 'unsatisfactory' grading, 2 received 'weak', 3 received 'adequate', 20 received 'good', 25 received 'very good' and 1 received 'excellent'.

5.3 Care Inspectorate Inspections - Childminding Services

- 5.3.1 From academic year 2019/20, childminders commenced providing funded hours within the ELC expansion plan for 1140 hours. All registered childminders are inspected by the Care Inspectorate using the updated [quality framework](#). One childminder inspection has been undertaken and published² by the Care Inspectorate since the Executive Sub-Committee of Learning & Families Committee on 15 May 2023.

² As at 26 June 2023

- 5.3.2 Inspections of those childminders that have funded places in partnership with PKC 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. For the 1 published inspection, all 4 indicators inspected received a 'very good' grading evaluation.

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 2018 in inspections undertaken by Education Scotland.
- 6.1.2 14 ELC providers and 19 primary schools have been inspected in the last five years since the beginning of academic session 2018/19. There have been 3 secondary school inspections carried out in the same period.
- 6.1.3 Table 1 below gives a summary of the evaluations for each QI for all ELC, primary and secondary school inspections.

Table 1: Number of QI Evaluations – 2018/19 to date.

Note: Short model inspections focus on QIs 2.3 and 3.2.

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	All QIs
Excellent	-	-	-	-	-
Very Good	2	3	4	3	12
Good	5	5	5	6	21
Satisfactory	2	5	2	-	9
Weak	-	1	3	-	
Unsatisfactory	-	-	-	-	-
Total	9	14	14	9	46

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	All QIs
Excellent	-	-	-	-	-
Very Good	5	3	4	4	16
Good	3	9	9	7	28
Satisfactory	3	6	4	-	13
Weak	-	1	2	-	3
Unsatisfactory	-	-	-	-	-
Total	11	19	19	11	60

Secondary Schools					
QI Grading	1.3 Leadership of change	2.3 Learning, teaching & assessment	3.2 Raising attainment & achievement	3.1 Ensuring wellbeing, equality & inclusion	All QIs
Excellent	-	-	-	-	-
Very Good	-	-	-	-	-
Good	-	-	1	1	2
Satisfactory	2	3	1	1	7
Weak	-	-	1	-	1
Unsatisfactory	-	-	-	-	-
Total	2	3	3	2	10

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 school inspections up to June 2023, using national and comparator authority information, is shown in Appendix 8. There is not currently sufficient data available on secondary school inspections to allow for useful benchmarking.

6.1.6 For all ELC QIs evaluated from 2018/19 to date, 72% were graded as Good or better. This compares with 58% for our comparator authorities and 60% nationally.

6.1.7 For all primary school QIs evaluated from 2018/19 to date, 73% were graded as Good or better. This compares with 58% for our comparator authorities and 64% 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 34 day care services across Perth and Kinross have been inspected by the Care Inspectorate since the beginning of the financial year 2022/23.

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 2022/23) against national and comparator data can be found in Appendix 9. 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 2022/23 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	15	20	10	22	67
Good	14	10	19	7	50
Satisfactory	4	3	2	5	14
Weak	1	1	1	0	3
Unsatisfactory	0	0	1	0	1
Total	34	34	34	34	136

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 15 May 2023. 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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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. The proposals have been considered under the Act; 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

6.1 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 - Rattray Primary School
 Appendix 2 - Invergowrie Primary School
 Appendix 3 - Auchtergaven Primary School and Nursery Class
 Appendix 4 - Pitlochry High School
 Appendix 5 - Goodlyburn and City of Perth Early Childhood Centre Inspection Report
 Appendix 6 - ABC Day Nursery Inspection Report
 Appendix 7 - Inchtute Primary School Nursery Inspection Report
 Appendix 8 - Summary of Education Scotland Inspections
 Appendix 9 - Summary of Care Inspectorate Day Care of Children Inspections