

**REPORT TO: CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES COMMITTEE ON
7 OCTOBER 2009**

**SUBJECT: SINGLETON INSPECTIONS OF PRE-SCHOOL CENTRES –
PUBLISHED REPORTS FROM AUGUST 2009 TO SEPTEMBER
2009**

BY: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

1. REASON FOR REPORT

1.1 The purpose of this report is to ask Children and Young People's Services Committee to scrutinise and note the singleton inspections of pre-school centres by the Care Commission which were published between August 2009 and September 2009. These were:

Ark Childcare Ltd – Cherry Tree Nursery, Elgin
Cullen Primary School Nursery, Cullen
Dyke Pre-school Centre, Dyke
Elgin Childcare Centre, Elgin
Little Acorns Childcare Centre, Kinloss
Moray College Nursery, Elgin
Mortlach Primary School Nursery, Dufftown
Noah's Ark Day Care, Forres
RAF Lossiemouth Childcare Centre, Lossiemouth
Torridon, Pre-school Nursery & Out Of School Care, Lossiemouth

1.2 This report is submitted to Committee in terms of Section D (1) of the Council's Administrative Scheme relating to exercising the functions of the Council as Education Authority.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 It is recommended that Children and Young People's Services Committee scrutinises and notes the contents of this report.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 The Regulation of Care (2001) Act (the Act) is the underpinning legislation for all regulatory activities of the Care Commission (CC) including Daycare of Children's Services (singleton inspections). Such services which offer an element of pre-school education funded by the local authority are also subject to inspection by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIE). The Act states that the CC and HMIE will inspect services where relevant in an integrated manner (integrated inspections).

3.2 The cycle of singleton inspections will normally be every two years for services for 3-5 year old children unless specific weaknesses have been identified or complaints received.

3.3 Inspections by the CC are now more targeted, and focus more on people who use services and their carers in an attempt to improve services in Scotland.

3.4 From April 2008 providers are inspected against a framework of Quality Themes and Statements. The Quality Themes are:

- Quality of care and support
- Quality of environment or information
- Quality of staffing
- Quality of management and leadership

3.5 The CC will grade services and publish these grades as part of their duty to provide information to the public about the quality of care services.

The six point grading scale:

6	excellent
5	very good
4	good
3	adequate
2	weak
1	unsatisfactory

3.6 In Singleton Inspections the report is written in terms of Strengths, Areas for Development, Enforcement (powers to enforce change or to close a service) and Other Information. The action points are given as **Requirements** (enforceable action required of a service provider in order to comply with current legislation, usually within a timescale) and **Recommendations** (proposed actions to be taken to improve the quality of the service but which would not be subject to enforceable action).

3.7 Following publication, inspection reports are available through pre-school centres, the Care Commission and online at www.carecommission.com.

3.8 The authority will give guidance and support, as appropriate, to both school nursery classes and partner providers of pre-school education. **Appendix 1** provides more details on the procedure following a Singleton Inspection.

3.9 During this reporting period there were 10 **Singleton Inspection** reports received. The list of providers is attached as **Appendix 1**. The Gradings, **Recommendations** and **Requirements** arising from the report are summarised in **Appendix 2**. A copy of the report is available in the Members' Library.

4. **SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS**

(a) **Single Outcome Agreement/Service Improvement Plan**

- (i) The report is relevant in relation to Local Priority 6 – Young People (Early Years) within the Single Outcome Agreement, and
- (ii) Action Area 6 – Early Years Framework in the Service Improvement Plan.

(b) Policy and Legal

The Regulation of Care (Scotland) Act 2001 set up the Care Commission to register and inspect all the services regulated under the Act including nursery classes and playgroups.

The authority has a duty to provide a quality pre-school education place for every 3 and 4 year old whose parents wish it.

(c) Resources (Financial, Risks, Staffing and Property)

None

(d) Consultations

Senior Officers in Educational Services, Deborah Brands, Principal Accountant, and Karen Wiles, Principal Solicitor (Litigation and Licensing), have been consulted and are in agreement with the relevant sections of the report.

5. CONCLUSION

5.1 That the Committee scrutinises and notes the contents of this report.

Author of Report: Sheena Duffus, Quality Improvement Officer
Background Papers:
Ref: DMD/JR/Reports/Children and Young People's Services Committee/7 October 2009/Singleton Inspections of Pre-School Centres - Published Reports from August 2009 to September 2009

APPENDIX 1**SINGLETON INSPECTIONS**

Name of Pre-school Provider	Date of Inspection
Ark Childcare Ltd – Cherry Tree	06/03/09
Cullen Primary School Nursery	16/03/09
Dyke Pre-school Centre	22/04/09
Elgin Childcare Centre	11/05/09
Little Acorns Childcare Centre	13/05/09
Moray College Nursery	22/05/09
Mortlach Primary School Nursery	20/05/09
Noah's Ark Day Care	25/05/09
RAF Lossiemouth Childcare Centre	22/05/09
Torridon Pre-school Centre & Out Of School Care	12/05/09

Procedure Following a Singleton Inspection

The pre-school centre is asked to prepare an action plan indicating how they will address the main findings of the report, and to share the plan with parents and carers.

APPENDIX 2**Summary of numbers of recommendations and requirements made to providers.**

Provider	Number of Recommendations	Number of Requirements
Ark Childcare Ltd – Cherry Tree	3	0
Cullen Primary School Nursery	0	0
Dyke Pre-school Centre	1	0
Elgin Childcare Centre	0	0
Little Acorns Childcare Centre	0	0
Moray College Nursery	0	0
Mortlach Primary School Nursery	1	0
Noah's Ark Day Care	0	0
RAF Lossiemouth Childcare Centre	0	0
Torridon Pre-school Centre & Out Of School	0	0

In Singleton Inspections the report is written in terms of Strengths, Areas for Development, Enforcement (powers to enforce change or to close a service) and Other Information. The action points are given as **Requirements** (enforceable action required of a service provider in order to comply with current legislation, usually within a timescale) and **Recommendations** (proposed actions to be taken to improve the quality of the service but which would not be subject to enforceable action).

The authority gives guidance and support as appropriate to all providers and is satisfied that they are robustly addressing the recommendations and requirements in the reports.

Details of gradings, recommendations and requirements made to providers

Ark Childcare Ltd – Cherry Tree

Gradings

Quality of Care and Support	4	Good
Quality of Environment or Information	4	Good
Quality of Staffing	4	Good
Quality of Management and Leadership	3	Adequate

Recommendations

- To increase the learning opportunities for children, especially in relation to the 2 – under 3 years. The provider should consider increasing staffing particularly when the service is operating to full capacity.
- The provider and/or manager continues to develop further and implement a robust system to review and evaluate the service which involves parents and where possible, the children in the assessment and improvement of the quality of staffing and management and leadership of the service.
- The provider ensures that the manager has clearly protected times during the week, preferably day(s), when she is extra to staff numbers.

Requirements

- None

Cullen Primary School Nursery

Gradings

Quality of Care and Support	5	Very good
Quality of Environment or Information	5	Very good
Quality of Staffing	5	Very good
Quality of Management and Leadership	5	Very good

Recommendations

- None

Requirements

- None

Dyke Pre-school Centre*Gradings*

Quality of Care and Support	5	Very good
Quality of Environment or Information	4	Good
Quality of Staffing	4	Good
Quality of Management and Leadership	5	Very good

Recommendations

- It is recommended that the service carries out a risk assessment focusing on the size of the environment and the implications of that for the quality of care. In addition the service should explore possibilities for increasing the size of the accommodation and for alternative accommodation.

Requirements

- None

Elgin Childcare Centre*Gradings*

Quality of Care and Support	5	Very good
Quality of Environment or Information	5	Very good
Quality of Staffing	4	Good
Quality of Management and Leadership	5	Very good

Recommendations

- None

Requirements

- None

Little Acorns Childcare Centre*Gradings*

Quality of Care and Support	5	Very good
Quality of Environment or Information	5	Very good
Quality of Staffing	5	Very good
Quality of Management and Leadership	5	Very good

Recommendations

- None

Requirements

- None

Moray College Nursery*Gradings*

Quality of Care and Support	5	Very good
Quality of Environment or Information	5	Very good
Quality of Staffing	5	Very good
Quality of Management and Leadership	5	Very good

Recommendations

- None

Requirements

- None

Mortlach Primary School Nursery*Gradings*

Quality of Care and Support	5	Very good
Quality of Environment or Information	5	Very good
Quality of Staffing	5	Very good
Quality of Management and Leadership	5	Very good

Recommendations

- It is recommended that the service provider review the amount of dedicated time allocated to staff for preparation, planning and recording in order to maintain very good performance and to meet the demands of the "Curriculum for Excellence".

Requirements

- None

Noah's Ark Day Care*Gradings*

Quality of Care and Support	5	Very good
Quality of Environment or Information	5	Very good
Quality of Staffing	5	Very good
Quality of Management and Leadership	5	Very good

Recommendations

- None

Requirements

- None

RAF Lossiemouth Childcare Centre*Gradings*

Quality of Care and Support	5	Very good
Quality of Environment or Information	4	Good
Quality of Staffing	5	Very good
Quality of Management and Leadership	5	Very good

Recommendations

- None

Requirements

- None

Torrifon Pre-school Nursery & Out Of School Care*Gradings*

Quality of Care and Support	6	Excellent
Quality of Environment or Information	5	Very good
Quality of Staffing	6	Excellent
Quality of Management and Leadership	6	Excellent

Recommendations

- None

Requirements

- None