

**REPORT TO: CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES COMMITTEE ON  
9 JUNE 2010**

**SUBJECT: SINGLETON INSPECTIONS OF PRE-SCHOOL CENTRES –  
PUBLISHED REPORTS FROM APRIL 2010 TO MAY 2010**

**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 April 2010 and May 2010. These were:

Bishopmill Pre-school Centre, Elgin  
Burghead Primary School Nursery, Burghead  
Hythehill Primary School Nursery, Lossiemouth  
Miltoduff Playgroup, Miltoduff  
New Elgin Primary School Nursery, Elgin

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
- Quality of staffing
- Quality of management and leadership

Where a low level of support is required by a centre, the CC may not assess all the themes. Where all themes are reported, it may be because of issues which require a higher level of support. This can be for a variety of reasons e.g. it may be the first time a centre has undergone inspection or it may be that the centre has required a higher level of support in the past.

- 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](http://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 5 **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**. Copies of the reports are 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 Acting 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/9 June 2010/Singleton Inspections of Pre-School Centres – Published Reports from April 2010 to May 2010

ITEM:

PAGE: 4

## **APPENDIX 1**

### **SINGLETON INSPECTIONS**

Name of Pre-school Provider	Date of Inspection
Bishopmill Pre-school Centre, Elgin	03/11/09
Burghead Primary School Nursery, Burghead	18/03/10
Hythehill Primary School Nursery, Lossiemouth	08/03/10
Miltonduff Playgroup, Miltonduff	23/03/10
New Elgin Primary School Nursery, Elgin	17/03/10

#### **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
Bishopmill Pre-school Centre, Elgin	0	0
Burghead Primary School Nursery, Burghead	0	0
Hythehill Primary School Nursery, Lossiemouth	0	0
Miltoduff Playgroup, Miltoduff	0	0
New Elgin Primary School Nursery, Elgin	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).

In this reporting period there were no Requirements or Recommendations for the five pre-school centres which were the subject of Singleton Inspections.

**Details of gradings, recommendations and requirements made to providers****Bishopmill Pre-school Centre, Elgin***Gradings*

Quality of Care and Support	6	Excellent
Quality of Environment	N/A	
Quality of Staffing	6	Excellent
Quality of Management and Leadership	N/A	

(N/A – Not Assessed)

*Recommendations*

- None

*Requirements*

- None

**Burghead Primary School Nursery, Burghead***Gradings*

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

*Recommendations*

- None

*Requirements*

- None

**Hythehill Primary School Nursery, Lossiemouth***Gradings*

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

*Recommendations*

- None

*Requirements*

- None

**Miltonduff Playgroup, Miltonduff***Gradings*

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

*Recommendations*

- None

*Requirements*

- None

**New Elgin Primary School Nursery, Elgin***Gradings*

Quality of Care and Support	4	Good
Quality of Environment	4	Good
Quality of Staffing	4	Good
Quality of Management and Leadership	4	Good

*Recommendations*

- None

*Requirements*

- None