

ITEM No ...2.....

REPORT TO: SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 28 JUNE 2023

REPORT ON: SUMMARY OF EXTERNAL CARE INSPECTORATE INSPECTION REPORTS FOR LOCAL AUTHORITY NURSERIES MAY 2022 TO MARCH 2023

REPORT BY: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

REPORT NO: 189-2023

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

To provide a summary of external Care Inspectorate (CI) inspection reports for local authority nurseries from May 2022 to March 2023.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that members:

- 2.1 Note the summary of the external inspection reports.
- 2.2 Remit the Executive Director of Children and Families to ensure that the area for improvement is acted upon, both in relation to the particular services inspected and as guidance on good practice for other services.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

4.0 MAIN TEXT

- 4.1 Summary reports are included from the Children and Families Service in relation to Caird View Nursery, Longhaugh Nursery, Ballumbie Early Years, Rowantree Early years, Woodlea Nursery, Claypotts Nursery, Glebelands Nursery, Dens Road Nursery, Ardler Nursery, Mill of Mains Nursery and Eastern Nursery. There were 0 requirements and 1 area for improvement.
- 4.2 Links to the full inspection reports are included in appendix 1.
 - 100% of Dundee City nurseries were graded Good or higher across all themes both in their 2022/23 inspections as well as their previous inspection.
 - How good is our care, play and learning?
100% of Dundee City Council nurseries inspected in 2022/23 were graded Very Good or Excellent and 90% (9 out of 10 with a previous rating) maintained or improved their rating.
 - How good is our setting?
91% of Dundee City Council nurseries inspected in 2022/23 were graded Very Good or Excellent and 88% (7 out of 8 with a previous rating) maintained or improved their rating.

- How good is our leadership?
100% of Dundee City Council nurseries inspected in 2022/23 were graded Very Good or Excellent and 89% (8 out of 9 with a previous rating) maintained or improved their rating.
- How good is our staff team?
91% of Dundee City Council nurseries inspected in 2022/23 were graded Very Good or Excellent and 88% (7 out of 8 with a previous rating) maintained or improved their rating.

5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This report has been subject to the Pre-IIA Screening Tool and does not make any recommendations for change to strategy, policy, procedures, services or funding and so has not been subject to an Integrated Impact Assessment. An appropriate senior manager has reviewed and agreed with this assessment

6.0 CONSULTATIONS

- 6.1 The Council Leadership Team was consulted in the preparation of this report.

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 None.

Audrey May
Executive Director

June 2023

Caird View Nursery	Inspection by Care Inspectorate	Latest Grade Awarded	Grading History		
	Theme	May 2022-first inspection			
	Quality of care and support	5 very good	n/a		
	Quality of environment	5 very good	n/a		
	Quality of staffing	5 very good	n/a		
	Quality of management and leadership	6 excellent	n/a		

Summary

Staff promoted children's rights throughout the service. They used floor books, learning journals and secure online platforms to engage children and families in their learning experiences. This resulted in an inclusive ethos where everyone was encouraged to share their views and opinions to shape care, play and learning.

Staff worked well as a team to continually adapt and develop areas within the environment to suit children's needs, wishes and interests.

The outdoor space was welcoming and provided children with appropriate challenge and risk. Staff were passionate in providing children with a range of opportunities, which were a good balance of adult and child led.

Children were cared for by a compassionate and dedicated staff team. Children were consistently listened to and supported throughout their day.

Children, families, and staff benefitted from a fully embedded culture of improvement within the setting. The manager led with an excellent approach to supporting, challenging and engaging staff to realise their full potential.

Area(s) to develop

Care Inspectorate encouraged staff to consider how they could create further opportunities for children to take part in reviewing their personal plans.

Rowantree Early Years Service	Inspection by Care Inspectorate	Latest Grade Awarded		Grading History	
	Theme	October 2022	Theme	Oct 18	Apr 17
	How good is our care, play and learning?	5 very good	Quality of care and support	4 good	3 adequate
	How good is our setting?	5 very good	Quality of environment	4 good	3 adequate
	How good is our leadership?	5 very good	Quality of staffing	4 good	3 adequate
	How good is our staff team?	5 very good	Quality of management and leadership	4 good	3 adequate

Summary

Interactions between staff and children were warm, responsive and engaging, supporting children in their play and learning. Staff had formed respectful relationships with families which supported them to feel included in nursery life. Staff worked in partnership with families, relevant professionals, and agencies to support children as needed and ensure positive outcomes.

Staff had a responsive approach to planning children's learning, taking the lead from the children's interests and ideas. Observations of children's development, learning and progress were recorded by staff in children's learning journeys.

Staff had made good use of the space available in the playrooms, with children able to move around freely, playing with resources on the table tops or floor, alone or with friends.

Self-evaluation tools such as 'How good is our early learning and childcare' were used to assess and reflect on various aspects of the nursery to support development and improvement. Informal and formal monitoring along with auditing ensured routine and regular reviews of the service were taking place.

There was a mix of skills and experience amongst the staff team. Staff worked well together to meet the needs of the children in their care. Staff were responsive and respectful of children during interactions and play, which encouraged the children to feel safe and valued.

Area(s) to develop

Management are developing an understanding of 'A quality framework for day care of children, childminding and school aged childcare' and would introduce the framework along with the other evaluation tools used to support the robust evaluation of the service.

Longhaugh Nursery	Inspection by Care Inspectorate	Latest Grade Awarded		Grading History	
	Theme	November 2022		May 21	
	How good is our care, play and learning?	5 very good	Quality of care and support	4 good	
	How good is our setting?	5 very good	Quality of environment	4 good	
	How good is our leadership?	5 very good	Quality of staffing	5 very good	
	How good is our staff team?	5 very good	Children Health & wellbeing supported during Covid 19	5 very good	

Summary

Children were happy, settled and had fun. Staff were skilful in their interactions, recognising the right moments to support children and when to allow them a safe space to experiment and explore independently.

Staff worked well with external agencies to enhance children's outcomes.

There was a strong sense of nurture and inclusion within the service. The management team promoted a shared vision across the service, engaging children and families in their aims and objectives.

Quality assurances ensured improvements were led well. Staff had a very good understanding of the developments within the service. The management team communicated effectively to ensure everyone worked towards shared goals.

Area(s) to develop

Staff told Care Inspectorate they felt well supported by the management team and had regular opportunities to discuss professional reading and policies. Care Inspectorate found that the induction procedures could be improved to support new and temporary staff in their roles.

Ballumbie Early Years	Inspection by Care Inspectorate	Latest Grade Awarded		Grading History	
	Theme	December 22		Mar-19	Jan 17
	How good is our care, play and learning?	5 very good	Quality of care and support	5 Very Good	5 Very Good
	How good is our setting?	5 very good	Quality of environment	5 Very Good	Not Assessed
	How good is our leadership?	5 very good	Quality of staffing	Not Assessed	5 Very Good
	How good is our staff team?	5 very good	Quality of management and leadership	Not Assessed	Not Assessed

Summary

Play was child led and children were engaged in play for extended periods of time. Child's plans were in place to support children with additional support needs. These included strategies to support children to progress and achieve. A wide range of high-quality resources supported quality play experiences for children both indoors and outdoors. Children were leading their own play and developing their curiosity, imaginations and critical thinking skills, using a variety of resources both indoors and outdoors. Staff were nurturing and caring which enabled positive relationships between children and their families. Staff worked well together and communicated effectively to support children's needs and choices. The manager had implemented a robust approach to self-evaluation and on-going improvement within the service.

Area(s) to develop

Policies to support effective and safe practice were in place and were shared with staff to ensure they had a good knowledge of each document. These should be reviewed at least annually to ensure they remain effective and current.

Glebelands Nursery	Inspection by Care Inspectorate	Latest Grade Awarded		Grading History	
	Theme	February 2023		Mar 19	Mar 17
	How good is our care, play and learning?	5 very good	Quality of care and support	5 Very Good	5 Very Good
	How good is our setting?	5 very good	Quality of environment	Not Assessed	Not Assessed
	How good is our leadership?	5 very good	Quality of staffing	4 Good	Not Assessed
	How good is our staff team?	5 very good	Quality of management and leadership	Not Assessed	5 Very Good

Summary

Children were happy and settled at nursery. They were actively leading their play and learning. Children and their families benefited from a welcoming and inclusive ethos within the setting. Settling in visits were tailored to meet the individual needs of the children to help them settle at their own pace and feel safe and secure as they transitioned into nursery. Staff were warm, kind and nurturing. Positive attachments contributed to the children feeling supported, valued and loved. Staff worked well together, confident in their roles to ensure quality experiences and outcomes for children and their families.

Area(s) to develop

Care Inspectorate reported that management and staff should continue to develop robust quality assurance systems to support the continuous improvement of the service.

Woodlea Nursery	Inspection by Care Inspectorate	Latest Grade Awarded		Grading History	
	Theme	February 2023		May 18	May 16
	How good is our care, play and learning?	6 excellent	Quality of care and support	6 excellent	6 excellent
	How good is our setting?	6 excellent	Quality of environment	6 excellent	Not assessed
	How good is our leadership?	6 excellent	Quality of staffing	Not assessed	Not assessed
	How good is our staff team?	6 excellent	Quality of management and leadership	Not assessed	6 excellent

Summary

Children and families are at the heart of this service, which enabled staff to know children well and develop positive relationships with parents.

Staff supported children with additional support needs and had developed their own skills and learning to use strategies and tools to support children.

Staff were highly skilled in observing children's play, extending their current interests and providing provocations to encourage intentional play and learning.

The staff skills and knowledge of child development ensured that children were challenged, at all stages of their development, to support continued progression and achievement.

The two-year-old environment was nurturing, warm and inviting and provided a spacious environment for children to develop gross motor skills, develop curiosities and be creative.

The environment had been well thought out and planned, to sensitively meet the needs of all children and their families. It was evident that children mattered and they had been valued and respected throughout the development of this high-quality learning environment.

Self-evaluation of the service was well led and of outstandingly high quality to support ongoing reflections and development of practice, interactions and the environment.

A passionate and eager team provided consistency for children and families.

A parent commented that 'staff were fantastic and a credit to early years education.'

Claypotts Nursery	Inspection by Care Inspectorate	Latest Grade Awarded		Grading History	
	Theme	February 2023		March 18	March 16
	How good is our care, play and learning?	5 very good	Quality of care and support	6 excellent	5 very good
	How good is our setting?	4 good	Quality of environment	Not assessed	5 very good
	How good is our leadership?	5 very good	Quality of staffing	6 excellent	5 very good
	How good is our staff team?	4 good	Quality of management and leadership	Not assessed	5 very good

Summary

Children had fun through a balance of spontaneous and planned activities. They were very busy and engaged in their play.

Opportunities for children to develop their language, literacy and numeracy skills were throughout the service, both indoors and outdoors.

Children benefited from nurturing, caring interactions that supported them to feel safe and ready to play and learn.

Children benefitted from developmentally appropriate indoor and outdoor environments. They enjoyed using loose parts to explore risky play by climbing and balancing on obstacles they had created.

Quality assurance, including self-evaluation and improvement plans, were in place and led to continuous improvement.

Training opportunities such as Solihull Approach and Trauma Informed Practice were promoted in response to the evolving needs within the service. Staff were knowledgeable and had a very good understanding of theories and good practice as a result.

Area for improvement

Children should be kept safe, both indoors and when playing outside. To support this improvement the provider should, at a minimum ensure:

- a) Staff are fully aware of the factors which raise the potential risk of children leaving the environment unsupervised and take action to prevent any occurrences. COMPLETED
- b) The outdoor area, including the fencing and shrubbery, are maintained appropriately and keep children safe and protected. COMPLETED

Ardler Nursery	Inspection by Care Inspectorate	Latest Grade Awarded		Grading History	
	Theme	March 2023		March 18	Dec 15
	How good is our care, play and learning?	5 very good	Quality of care and support	5 very good	5 very good
	How good is our setting?	5 very good	Quality of environment	Not assessed	5 very good
	How good is our leadership?	5 very good	Quality of staffing	5 very good	5 very good
	How good is our staff team?	5 very good	Quality of management and leadership	Not assessed	5 very good

Summary

All children experienced warm, caring and nurturing approaches by staff which supported their overall wellbeing.

Staff knew children very well and had a good knowledge of how to support them as individuals.

Children were leading their own play and learning. Staff planned responsively taking account of children's interests and their stages of development.

Effective questioning encouraged children's understanding, problem solving and critical thinking.

Children benefitted from free flow access to the nursery gardens which were both secure. Children had opportunities to play and learn outdoors daily in all weathers.

There was a mix of experience, knowledge and skills within the staff team, with staff having a good understanding of their roles and responsibilities. Staff communicated very well with each other and worked well as a team, ensuring effective supervision and quality engagement with children.

Area(s) to develop

Care Inspectorate agreed with senior staff that the team should continue to reflect on lunchtime for 3-5 children, identifying and addressing further developments.

Dens Road Nursery	Inspection by Care Inspectorate	Latest Grade Awarded		Grading History	
	Theme	March 2023		June 17	June 15
	How good is our care, play and learning?	5 very good	Quality of care and support	5 very good	4 good
	How good is our setting?	5 very good	Quality of environment	Not assessed	4 good
	How good is our leadership?	5 very good	Quality of staffing	Not assessed	5 very good
	How good is our staff team?	5 very good	Quality of management and leadership	5 very good	4 good

Summary

Positive attachments contributed to children feeling well supported, valued and loved. Children were observed to be happy, confident and secure in their environment. They were keen to share their play and learning experiences. They were actively leading their own learning. A natural and homely environment provided opportunities for children to develop their imaginations and curious minds.

Children's rights were upheld as they were regularly consulted on their opinions, which valued them as experts in designing their learning experiences. As a result, children were supported to reach their full potential.

Care Inspectorate observed a knowledgeable staff team who were respectful and supportive of each other. Positive role modelling between staff helped children develop and understand positive and supportive relationships.

A culture of continuous professional development supported staff to develop confidence, when providing positive outcomes for children.

Area(s) to develop

Care Inspectorate suggested that the lunchtime provision in the two-year-old room could be further developed.

Care Inspectorate suggested that the service should create an infection prevention and control policy, as well as an accident and incidents policy, to ensure they continued to adhere to current guidance.

Eastern Nursery	Inspection by Care Inspectorate	Latest Grade Awarded		Grading History	
	Theme	March 2023		March 20	Dec 16
	How good is our care, play and learning?	5 very good	Quality of care and support	5 very good	5 very good
	How good is our setting?	5 very good	Quality of environment	Not assessed	Not assessed
	How good is our leadership?	5 very good	Quality of staffing	Not assessed	5 very good
	How good is our staff team?	5 very good	Quality of management and leadership	5 very good	Not assessed

Summary

Children experienced interesting and motivating play and learning opportunities across a range of creative spaces.

Staff valued the importance of creating warm, nurturing and loving attachments with children and their families.

Children were happy, confident and secure in their play and learning. They were valued as experts in leading their own learning, as they had the freedom to explore their own ideas.

A culture of ongoing professional development was embedded within the service to support positive outcomes for children.

A robust improvement plan and self-evaluation process enabled staff to continually reflect on the ongoing improvements within the service.

Children experienced positive transitions, which created a relaxed pace within their play and learning

Area(s) to develop

The 'National induction resource' checklist was used with new members of staff and the nursery leadership team led informal catchups. We suggested recording this more formally to highlight strengths and areas for continued development, to capture their knowledge and experience.

Mill of Mains Nursery	Inspection by Care Inspectorate	Latest Grade Awarded		Grading History	
	Theme	March 2023		May 17	May 15
	How good is our care, play and learning?	5 very good	Quality of care and support	5 very good	4 good
	How good is our setting?	5 very good	Quality of environment	Not assessed	4 good
	How good is our leadership?	5 very good	Quality of staffing	5 very good	4 good
	How good is our staff team?	5 very good	Quality of management and leadership	Not assessed	4 good

Summary

Children were happy, confident and motivated to play and learn.

Children received nurturing care and support from staff who were kind, nurturing and responsive to their needs.

The nursery had reintroduced 'stay and play' sessions which also provided opportunities to talk with parents and carers about the children's development and progress, gather feedback and share information about nursery business.

Staff used very good questioning to encourage and support children's thinking and understanding. Staff repeated words and introduced vocabulary where appropriate to encourage and extend children's learning.

Children benefitted from a skilled staff team, who worked well together and had created a welcoming and inclusive environment.

Staff communicated well with families, including and involving them in the life of the setting.

A parent shared "The nursery has been exceptional since my daughter started. I have complete faith in the quality of care and learning which she receives from all staff."

Area(s) to develop

The service should continue to formally evaluate and audit all areas of the service to support the continuous and robust assessment of the nursery.

Appendix 1

Caird View Nursery

<https://www.careinspectorate.com/berengCareservices/html/reports/getPdfBlob.php?id=311741>

Rowantree Early years

<https://www.careinspectorate.com/berengCareservices/html/reports/getPdfBlob.php?id=313300>

Longhaugh Nursery

<https://www.careinspectorate.com/berengCareservices/html/reports/getPdfBlob.php?id=313740>

Ballumbie Early Years

<https://www.careinspectorate.com/berengCareservices/html/reports/getPdfBlob.php?id=313563>

Glebelands Nursery

<https://www.careinspectorate.com/berengCareservices/html/reports/getPdfBlob.php?id=314117>

Woodlea Nursery

<https://www.careinspectorate.com/berengCareservices/html/reports/getPdfBlob.php?id=314064>

Claypotts Nursery

<https://www.careinspectorate.com/berengCareservices/html/reports/getPdfBlob.php?id=314584>

Ardler Nursery

<https://www.careinspectorate.com/berengCareservices/html/reports/getPdfBlob.php?id=314688>

Dens Road Nursery

<https://www.careinspectorate.com/berengCareservices/html/reports/getPdfBlob.php?id=315269>

Eastern Nursery

<https://www.careinspectorate.com/berengCareservices/html/reports/getPdfBlob.php?id=314724>

Mill of Mains Nursery

<https://www.careinspectorate.com/berengCareservices/html/reports/getPdfBlob.php?id=314719>