

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Education and Children's Services Committee
DATE	21 March 2023
EXEMPT	No
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	Inspection Reporting
REPORT NUMBER	CFS/23/087
DIRECTOR	Eleanor Sheppard
CHIEF OFFICER	Shona Milne
REPORT AUTHOR	Shona Milne
TERMS OF REFERENCE	1.1.1

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report details how Aberdeen City schools and Early Learning and Childcare settings have engaged with His Majesty's Inspectors of Education (HMIe) and The Care Inspectorate since January 2023.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee:-

- 2.1 notes the content of this report; and
- 2.2 instructs the Chief Education Officer to continue to support Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) settings and schools to implement continuous improvement in keeping with the Quality Frameworks.

3. CURRENT SITUATION

3.1 **Education Scotland inspection of St Peters Primary School**

St Peters Primary School was inspected week beginning 5th December. During the visit, Inspectors talked to parents/carers and children, worked closely with the headteacher and staff and visited classrooms to see how children were being supported. Taking this approach enabled them to triangulate evidence to support their evaluations. The inspection team found the following strengths in the school's work:

- The school's shared values are clearly linked to Gospel Values. They are evident in the inclusive, caring ethos at St Peter's. All staff have very positive, caring relationships with children, and children are kind and respectful to each other. This helps to create a calm, purposeful environment where children are valued and supported in their learning and wellbeing.
- The headteacher and depute headteacher provide strong leadership and a clear direction for school improvement. This is based on a

thorough understanding of the needs of children and families, and the progress children are making in their learning.

- Strong partnership work is helping to increase the confidence and self-esteem of children. In turn, this is helping to support an inclusive and ambitious school culture.

The following areas for improvement were identified and discussed with the headteacher and a representative from Aberdeen City Council:

- Continue to develop high-quality learning and teaching more consistently across the school. Ensure that learning activities are challenging enough and well matched to the needs of all children.
- Build on recent improvements in attainment in literacy and numeracy to continue to improve attainment for all children, in these areas of learning and across the curriculum.

The school secured positive gradings against the Quality Indicators.

Primary school Quality Indicators	Evaluation
Learning, teaching and assessment	Good (4)
Raising attainment and achievement	Good (4)

The link to the full report is available [here](#). HMIE are confident that the school has the capacity to continue to improve and so will make no more visits in connection with this inspection. Aberdeen City Council will inform parents/carers about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools.

3.2 **Education Scotland inspection of Broomhill Primary School**

Broomhill Primary School was inspected week beginning 9th January. During the visit, Inspectors talked to parents/carers and children, worked closely with the headteacher and staff and visited classrooms to see how children were being supported. Taking this approach enabled them to triangulate evidence to support their evaluations. This was a full week inspection and inspectors evaluated the school against the four key quality indicators. The inspection team found the following strengths in the school's work:

- Children who demonstrate a positive attitude to learning. They respond well to opportunities they have to learn in interesting contexts such as the wooded area.
- The school's approaches to inclusion and diversity which enables children to be valued members of the school community.
- The headteacher and senior leaders who are working with staff and the school community to drive forward school improvements. Staff who support each other well. They welcome opportunities for professional learning to improve outcomes for learners.

The following areas for improvement were identified and discussed with the headteacher and a representative from Aberdeen City Council.

- Develop further approaches to learning, teaching and assessment across the nursery and school to ensure greater consistency. In doing so, it will be important for all staff to have a shared understanding of high quality learning and teaching.
- Develop further approaches to tracking and monitoring children's learning across the nursery and school to ensure all children make the best possible progress.
- Improve children's experiences in the nursery class to ensure all children are supported to make the best possible progress

The school secured positive gradings against the Quality Indicators.

Primary school Quality Indicators	Evaluation
Leadership of change	Good (4)
Learning, teaching and assessment	Satisfactory (3)
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	Satisfactory (3)
Raising attainment and achievement	Satisfactory (3)

Nursery Class Quality Indicators	Evaluation
Leadership of change	Satisfactory(3)
Learning, teaching and assessment	Weak (2)
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	Satisfactory (3)
Securing children's progress	Satisfactory (3)

The link to the full report is available [here](#). HMle feel that the school require additional support and time to make the improvements in the ELC and as such will return to carry out a further inspection within one year. Central officers will work closely with the school to ensure the necessary improvements are made in the ELC before HMle return.

3.3 **Care Inspectorate Inspections**

The Care Inspectorate continue to inspect on a risk basis, leading to a higher proportion of settings being inspected where complaints or issues have been raised with them. Engagement includes a mix of in person and digital engagement although expectations are consistent with those in place prior to the pandemic.

- 3.4 **Glashieburn ELC**, an Aberdeen City run provision, was inspected in November. The Inspector noted that staff knew children's needs and preferences well and that children received nurturing care from staff. Children enjoyed a welcoming and comfortable indoor environment and experienced a variety of interesting play experiences both indoors and outdoors. The inspectors noted that the quality of planning and observations of learning was improving however the positioning of some outdoor equipment requires to be reviewed in order to avoid the fence becoming a climbing hazard.

Aspect being inspected	Evaluation
How good is our care, play and learning?	Good (4)
How good is our setting?	Adequate (3)
How good is our leadership?	Good (4)
How good is our staff team?	Good (4)

A link to the full report is available [here](#). The staff team were delighted that their nurturing approaches were highlighted and will work with corporate landlord and the senior leadership team to address the recommendations around the outdoor area.

- 3.5 **Hanover Street ELC**, an Aberdeen City run provision, was inspected in November 2022. The inspector noted a previous requirement to make the outdoor area safe had been met. Inspectors noted that staff worked well to build positive relationships with other agencies and most children were happy and confident around staff and were forming positive relationships with them. Inspectors suggested that the organisation of lunchtime be revisited. It was recognised that the use of loose parts play had improved and Inspectors encouraged the staff team to continue to develop the play areas available to children in order to ensure the creation of the best learning environment.

Aspect being inspected	Evaluation
How good is our care, play and learning?	Adequate (3)
How good is our setting?	Adequate (3)
How good is our leadership?	Adequate (3)
How good is our staff team?	Adequate (3)

A link to the full report is available [here](#). The staff team were delighted that their positive relationships were highlighted and that the work they had begun in improving the outdoor environments was recognised. Appendix A provides the action plan to realise improvements.

- 3.6 **Woodend Nursery** is an NHS ELC setting on the grounds of Woodend hospital. It is a funded provider setting registered to provide a care service for a maximum of 47 children aged three months to not yet attending primary school. It was inspected by the Care Inspectorate in November 2022. Inspectors noted that children were cared for compassionately by staff who nurtured positive relationships between the children. The outdoor areas provided children with good quality play and learning experiences. Inspectors suggest that quality assurance processes and lunch arrangements should be further developed to offer a consistently high-quality experience and care for all children.

Aspect being inspected	Evaluation
How good is our care, play and learning?	Adequate (3)
How good is our setting?	Adequate (3)
How good is our leadership?	Adequate (3)
How good is our staff team?	Adequate (3)

A link to the full report is available [here](#)

- 3.7 **Flexible Childcare Services**, Cummings Park received a follow up inspection in November 2022. Members should be aware that a return inspection by the Care Inspectorate does not trigger a re-evaluation of grades, the process is designed to provide an update against the recommendations made. Inspectors noted significant improvements had been made to the learning environment. They found that children's health and wellbeing was supported by the use of effective personal plans. These were individualised and contained up-to-date information to help staff meet children's needs. Staff were knowledgeable and competent in their understanding of child development and children were provided warmth, comfort, and compassionate care. Children were kept safe and well by effective systems and procedures and knowledgeable staff who were competent in the safe administration of medication. Staff were effectively deployed and worked well together to ensure effective supervision and quality engagement with the children across the day.

A link to the full follow up report is available [here](#). The staff team were delighted that the improvements have been recognised and continue on their improvement journey. The service will be regraded at their next full inspection.

- 3.8 **Amber Kindergarten** is a funded provider setting located in the grounds of Camphill. Care Inspectorate carried out a two-day inspection which took place on 19 January 2023 and 24 January 2023. Inspectors highlighted that children were incredibly well supported by staff who were consistently attuned to children and responsive to their needs. Building positive relationships and connections with children and also their families was a key strength of this service. Children benefitted greatly from many play and learning opportunities within the Camphill estate. There were extensive opportunities to embrace nature, engage with animals and learn new skills. A calm atmosphere was created through the skills of the staff team and their commitment to supporting transitions using a creative and child centred approach. The team worked in a very cohesive way, with very good communication at all times. There was strong leadership at all levels and this supported staff to have high aspirations and confidence in their capacity to support children and families to reach their full potential.

Aspect being inspected	Evaluation
How good is our care, play and learning?	Excellent (6)
How good is our setting?	Excellent (6)
How good is our leadership?	Very Good (5)
How good is our staff team?	Excellent (6)

A link to the full report can be found [here](#). The team are absolutely delighted that their excellent practice has been highlighted.

- 3.9 **Walker Road ELC** received an unannounced follow up inspection which took place on 14 December 2022. As this was a follow up inspection the service do not receive a regrading. Inspectors reported that the provider had completed all actions on their action plan to maintain a safe environment following their internal health and safety investigation. Staff were improving their interaction with children to consistently provide a nurturing and caring experience for children. Children's meal time experiences were improving. Staff had reviewed the room layout, making significant changes to help create welcoming spaces for children. Infection control practices had improved. A detailed improvement plan was in place that focused on areas for improvement identified as a result of the last inspection.

A link to the full report can be found [here](#). The staff team were delighted that the improvements have been recognised and continue on their improvement journey. The service will be regraded at their next full inspection.

- 3.10 **Kingsford ELC** received an unannounced follow up inspection which took place on 19 January 2023. As this was a follow up inspection the service do not receive a regrading. Inspectors reported that children were better supported by improved personal plan information and staff awareness of how to use this to support individual children. Children received regular meals consistently throughout the day and week. Staff, skills and support had improved which helped keep children safe. Progress had been made in identified areas for improvement. These are ongoing.

A link to the full report can be found [here](#). The staff team were delighted that the improvements have been recognised and continue on their improvement journey. The service will be regraded at their next full inspection.

- 3.11 The education service continue to support ELC settings to improve quality and have action plans in place to drive improvement where appropriate.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no legal implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 No negative environmental impacts have been identified.

7. RISK

Category	Risks	Primary Controls/Control Actions to achieve Target Risk Level	*Target Risk Level (L, M or H) *taking into account controls/control actions	*Does Target Risk Level Match Appetite Set?
Strategic Risk	Risk of not improving outcomes for learners	Positive engagement with Inspection agencies and sharing learning across the system where appropriate.	L	Yes
Compliance	Risk of not complying with national guidance	Positive engagement with Inspection agencies and sharing learning across the system where appropriate.	L	Yes
Operational	Risk that schools/ELC settings do not accurately identify the areas for improvement that will make the greatest difference to learners	Quality assurance arrangements in place to validate self-evaluation gradings	L	Yes
Financial	No risks identified			
Reputational	Risk that poor quality of provision will present a reputational risk to the Council	High levels of assurance are taken Quality Improvement and Inspection visits	L	Yes
Environment / Climate	No risks identified			

8. OUTCOMES

<u>COUNCIL DELIVERY PLAN</u>	
Impact of Report	
<p>Aberdeen City Council Policy Statement</p> <p>Commit to realising the potential of each individual, by seeking to widen curriculum choice and implement progressive choices.</p> <p>Commit to closing the attainment gap in education while working with partners across the city.</p>	<p>External scrutiny provides helpful assurance that there is sufficient focus on helping young people recover from the pandemic and that the school self-evaluation and improvement plan is well positioned to support a closing of the poverty related attainment gap.</p>
<u>Aberdeen City Local Outcome Improvement Plan</u>	
<p>Prosperous People - 95% of all our children, including those living in our priority neighbourhoods, will sustain a positive destination upon leaving school by 2026</p>	<p>Engagement with inspectors provides an opportunity to learn from national best practice and validate self-evaluation evidence available in schools. The support and challenge received by Inspectors helps to shape improvement plans for the coming sessions in keeping with the LOIP stretch aims.</p>
<p>Regional and City Strategies</p> <p>Regional Cultural Strategy</p> <p>Prevention Strategy</p> <p>Children's Services Plan</p> <p>National Improvement Framework Plan</p>	<p>Engagement with the Inspectorate is fully aligned to the city prevention strategy. Work to address poverty and improvement in the Children's services plan, the Child Poverty Action Plan and the National Improvement Framework Plan is also supported through external scrutiny.</p>

9. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Integrated Impact Assessment	Not required
Data Protection Impact Assessment	Not required
Other	None

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

11. APPENDICES

Appendix A – Action Plan for Hanover Street

12. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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