
To: Education and Children's Services Policy Board

On: 22 August 2019

Report by: Director of Children's Services

Heading: Inspection of registered children's residential houses by the Care Inspectorate

1. Summary

- 1.1. Renfrewshire children's services supports a range of interventions for children and their families. For most children the support is delivered in their own home with their birth parent(s). For others the level of risk and challenges presented in their own home or community means that the local authority has to provide alternative care for the child.
- 1.2. Residential child care is one type of service provided for children who require to be cared for out with their own family. Residential child care is utilised where this is the most appropriate service to meet the needs of the child.
- 1.3. Renfrewshire children's services currently has 6 residential children's houses. At the present time there are 32 children and young people living in our children's houses. The children's houses are registered with, and subject to inspection by the Care Inspectorate.
- 1.4. Inspections undertaken by the Care Inspectorate utilise a model based on proportionate risk. The Care Inspectorate assesses the service on up to 4 themes and grades these areas on a six point scale (See paragraphs 3.2 and 3.3).
- 1.5. This report summarises the latest findings from the inspections of our residential Children's Houses conducted during 2019. The inspection reports show that Renfrewshire's residential children's houses continue to be of a high quality with all grades awarded being good or very good in the domains inspected.

2. Recommendations

2.1 Elected members are asked to note:

- (a) the strong performance of Renfrewshire Council's residential children's houses with all services graded as Good or Very Good in the areas inspected.

3. Background

3.1 Social work and social care services are subject to a range of audit and scrutiny activities to ensure that they are undertaking all statutory duties and providing appropriate care and support to vulnerable individuals and groups. A number of social work and social care services are required to register with the Care Inspectorate. These registered services are subject to regular inspection by the Care Inspectorate. Typically, residential facilities will be subject to one inspection per year which will be unannounced. Other services are likely to be inspected annually or bi-annually.

3.2 The Care Inspectorate uses a proportionate risk model of inspection. Those services graded as 'Good' or above are subject to low-intensity inspections. Services are assessed on up to four quality themes:

- Quality of Care and Support
- Quality of Environment
- Quality of Staffing
- Quality of Management and Leadership.

3.3 The Care Inspectorate utilises the following gradings across each of the areas considered during each inspection:

1. Unsatisfactory
2. Weak
3. Adequate
4. Good
5. Very good
6. Excellent

3.4 The Care Inspectorate publishes the inspection reports on its website. In addition to awarding grades in each of the themes inspected, the Care Inspectorate can make a recommendation or put in place a requirement. A recommendation will set out an action that would improve or develop the quality of the service, but failure to meet a recommendation would not result in enforcement by the Care Inspectorate. Requirements are legally enforceable and set out what is required by a care service to comply with the Regulation of Care (Scotland) Act 2001 or with the conditions of registration.

Recent inspection activity in Children's Services

- 3.5 Renfrewshire children's services currently has 6 residential children's houses. At the present time there are 32 children and young people living in our children's houses. The children's houses are registered with, and subject to inspection by the Care Inspectorate.
- 3.6 Five of Renfrewshire's residential children's houses for children and young people have been inspected in 2019. The following children's houses have been inspected in the current year:
- Arkleston Road
 - Beech Avenue
 - Roneil
 - Barochan Road
 - Longcroft
- 3.7 Children's Services recently opened a new children's house in Linwood. The new children's house has accommodation for 4 children and has been developed to provide support for our most vulnerable children and young people. The house opened in February 2019 and as such has not been subject to its first inspection. The first inspection will be carried out in the next six months and the outcome will be reported to a future meeting of this policy board.
- 3.8 Renfrewshire's residential children's houses continue to offer high standards of care and homely and loving environments. During 2019, the inspectors have focussed on the same 2 quality indicators across all of our children's houses:
- Quality of Care and Support; and
 - Quality of Environment.

Quality of Care and Support

- 3.9 All 5 of Renfrewshire's residential children's houses inspected this year were assessed as "Very Good" for the quality of care and support they provide to the young people living there.

Quality of Environment

- 3.10 Three of Renfrewshire's children's houses, Beech Avenue, Arkleston and Barochan, were assessed as "Very Good" for the Quality of Environment. The other two children's houses, Roneil and Longcroft, were assessed as "Good" for Quality of Environment.

Care Inspectorate Recommendations

- 3.11 The Care Inspectorate made no recommendations in four of the five inspections they conducted in our children's houses in 2019. Two recommendations were made in relation to Beech Avenue. The first recommendation was that a policy for managing young people under the influence of substances should be developed and the second related to the role of the external manager. The service is presently working on addressing these recommendations and will have them resolved before the next inspection.

Care Inspectorate Requirements

- 3.12 The Care Inspectorate didn't impose any requirements in four of the five inspections they carried out in Renfrewshire's residential children's houses in 2019. A requirement to improve the standard of the accommodation was made in relation to Roneil. The requirement specifically referenced renewal of the bathrooms. Work had already been planned and is now complete in relation to the bathrooms. Roneil is a Grade C listed building and as such presents some unique challenges in maintaining the environment to the standard expected by the Care Inspectorate.

Conclusion

- 3.13 The findings of the recent inspections of our residential children's houses demonstrate continuing high standards of care for some of Renfrewshire's most vulnerable children. Whilst pleased with the grades awarded Children's Services are committed to continuous improvement and will continue to consider how we can strive for even better grades.

Implications of the Report

1. **Financial** - None
2. **HR & Organisational Development** - None
3. **Community Planning** –

Our Renfrewshire is Thriving - we strive for high standards of care across our services to offer our children and young people the opportunity to develop their full potential enabling them to contribute to a fairer society.

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4. **Legal** - None

5. **Property/Assets** – None
6. **Information Technology** – None
7. **Equality & Human Rights** - The recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report it is for noting only. If required following implementation, the actual impact of the recommendations and the mitigating actions will be reviewed and monitored, and the results of the assessment will be published on the Council's website.
8. **Health & Safety** - None
9. **Procurement** – None
10. **Risk** - Failure by services to meet and exceed the National Care Standards could lead to poor inspection results and enforcement action from the Care Inspectorate, as well as negative outcomes for service users and carers.
11. **Privacy Impact** - None
12. **Cosla Policy Position:** None
13. **Climate Risk** - None.

List of Background Papers

- (a) None

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