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**REPORT TO: EDUCATION, CHILDREN'S AND LEISURE SERVICES  
COMMITTEE 2 NOVEMBER 2022**

**SUBJECT: SINGLETON INSPECTIONS OF EARLY LEARNING AND  
CHILDCARE CENTRES – PUBLISHED REPORTS MARCH 2022  
TO JUNE 2022**

**BY: DEPUTE CHIEF EXECUTIVE (EDUCATION, COMMUNITIES AND  
ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT)**

**1. REASON FOR REPORT**

- 1.1 To inform the Committee of the content of singleton inspection reports of Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) centres by Care Inspectorate which were published between March 2022 and June 2022. These were;

Linkwood Nursery, Elgin  
Portgordon Nursery, Portgordon  
Rainbow Days Nursery, Buckie  
Aberlour and Craigellachie Pre School, Aberlour  
Mosstodloch Nursery, Mosstodloch  
Pilmuir Nursery, Forres

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

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Committee consider and note the findings and their effects on performance**

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 At the meeting of Education, Children's and Leisure Services Committee on 24 August 2022, Councillor Warren noted the information report on Early Learning and Childcare – Singleton Inspection of ELC Centres and asked that it be brought to the next meeting of the Committee to consider the findings and their effect on performance.

- 3.2 The Care Inspectorate carries out inspections of care services, including day care of children's services. Providers are inspected against a Framework of Quality Themes and Statements and the National Standard.
- 3.3 The Care Inspectorate resumed face to face ELC scrutiny in Autumn 2021 after COVID-19 restrictions impacted on their work.
- 3.4 The six services noted are the last to have scrutiny under the old quality framework and subsequently have reports finalised and published.
- 3.5 Until end of June 2022, Care Inspectorate Officers graded services and published 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 Following publication, inspection reports are available through ELC centres and online at [www.careinspectorate.com](http://www.careinspectorate.com).
- 3.7 The education authority will give guidance and support, as appropriate, to both school nursery settings and partner providers of ELC education. Following a Singleton Inspection, the ELC 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.
- 3.8 During this reporting period there were 6 Singleton Inspection reports received.

<b>Name of Early Learning and Childcare Provider</b>	<b>Date of Inspection</b>
Linkwood Nursery, Elgin	18 March 2022
Portgordon Nursery, Portgordon	30 March 2022
Rainbow Days, Buckie	26 April 2022
Aberlour and Craigellachie Pre School, Aberlour	5 May 2022
Mosstodloch Nursery, Mosstodloch	23 May 2022
Pilmuir Nursery, Forres	8 June 2022

- 3.9 The Gradings, Recommendations and Requirements arising from the reports are summarised in **Appendix 1**.
- 3.10 Linkwood, Mosstodloch and Pilmuir received grades 4 or above which means they are meeting the [National Standard](#).

- 3.11 These services continue to work in partnership with Moray Council and have access to the Early Years Teaching Team alongside their respective Continuous Improvement Officer.
- 3.12 Portgordon, Rainbow Days and Aberlour and Craigellachie Pre-School all dropped below grade 4 in one area of their inspection. Recommendations are summarised in **Appendix 1**.
- 3.13 The table below highlights the area where the grade has dropped and the planned improvement work to support ELC settings;

ELC setting	Quality Framework area	Plans for improvement/support
Portgordon Nursery	Quality of Management and Leadership	Recruitment of new nursery manager. Ongoing support from Continuous Improvement Officer (East) Minor works planned for 2023 will enhance open ended play opportunities.
Rainbow Days	Quality of Management and Leadership	Safer recruitment practices developed.
Aberlour & Craigellachie Pre-school	Quality of Environment	Support from Continuous Improvement Officer (East) with environment audit. Capital works planned for 2023 which will enhance environment.

- 3.14 Each of the services is in the East of Moray and will receive continued support from Teaching and Learning Teachers as well as the support noted above. Portgordon Nursery has a new nursery manager that will start on 5<sup>th</sup> September therefore meeting one of the outstanding requirements.
- 3.15 The current gradings of these three services will not impact on their partnership agreement with Moray Council to deliver funded Early Learning and Childcare hours.

#### 4. **SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS**

##### (a) **Corporate Plan and 10 Year Plan (Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP))**

This report relates the priority 'Provide a sustainable education service aiming for excellence' from the Corporate Plan and to 'Building a better future for our children and young people in Moray' from the LOIP.

**(b) Policy and Legal**

The Care Inspectorate inspects all registered services regulated under the Public Services Reform (Scotland) Act 2010, which includes nursery classes and playgroups.

The authority has a duty to provide a quality early learning and childcare place for every 3 and 4 year old whose parents wish it and for eligible 2 year olds.

**(c) Financial implications**

None arising directly from the report.

**(d) Risk Implications**

None arising directly from the report.

**(e) Staffing Implications**

None arising directly from the report.

**(f) Property**

None arising directly from the report.

**(g) Equalities/Socio Economic Impact**

An Equality Impact Assessment is not required as this report is to inform Committee on performance.

**(h) Climate Change and Biodiversity Impacts**

None arising directly from the report.

**(i) Consultations**

Head of Education (Chief Education Officer), Continuous Improvement Officer (West), Continuous Improvement Officer (East), Early Years Project Officer and Principal Teacher Early Years Education Service have been consulted and are in agreement with the contents of this report as regards their respective responsibilities.

## **5. CONCLUSION**

### **5.1 That the Committee scrutinise and note the contents of this report.**

Author of Report: Hazel Sly, Early Years' Service Manager

Background Papers:

<https://www.careinspectorate.com/berengCareservices/html/reports/getPdfBlob.php?id=309996>

<https://www.careinspectorate.com/berengCareservices/html/reports/getPdfBlob.php?id=309979>

<https://www.careinspectorate.com/berengCareservices/html/reports/getPdfBlob.php?id=310259>

<https://www.careinspectorate.com/berengCareservices/html/reports/getPdfBlob.php?id=310617>

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