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**REPORT TO: EDUCATION, CHILDREN'S AND LEISURE SERVICES  
COMMITTEE 19 APRIL 2023**

**SUBJECT: INFORMATION REPORT: SINGLETON INSPECTIONS OF EARLY  
LEARNING AND CHILDCARE CENTRES – PUBLISHED  
REPORTS JUNE 2022 TO MARCH 2023**

**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 June 2022 and March 2023. These were;

Aberlour Nursery, Aberlour  
Cullen Nursery, Cullen  
Rainbow Childcare, Forres  
Strathisla (FCSS) Nursery, Keith  
Drumduan Kindergarten, Forres  
Rothies Nursery, Rothies  
The Cabin, Mortlach  
Moray College, Elgin

- 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. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 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.
- 2.2 The Care Inspectorate resumed face to face ELC scrutiny in Autumn 2021 after COVID-19 restrictions impacted on their work.
- 2.3 The eight services noted are the first in Moray to have reports finalised and published using the revised Care Inspectorate [Quality Framework](#).

- 2.4 Care Inspectorate Officers 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

- 2.5 Following publication, inspection reports are available through ELC centres and online at [www.careinspectorate.com](http://www.careinspectorate.com).
- 2.6 The education authority will give guidance and support, as appropriate, to both school nursery classes 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.
- 2.7 During this reporting period there were 9 Singleton Inspection reports received.

Name of Early Learning and Childcare Provider	Date of Inspection
Aberlour Nursery, Aberlour	09.06.22 & 16.09.22
* Cullen Nursery, Cullen	24.06.22
Rainbow Childcare, Forres	29.06.22
Strathisla (FCSS) Nursery, Keith	04.08.22
Drumduan Kindergarten, Forres	06.10.22
* Rothes Nursery, Rothes	28.10.22
* The Cabin, Mortlach	01.11.22
* Moray College, Elgin	10.11.22

- 2.8 The Gradings, Recommendations and Requirements arising from the reports are summarised in **Appendix 1**.
- 2.9 Services marked with a \* received grades 4 or above which means they are meeting the [National Standard](#). 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.
- 2.10 Services not yet reaching grades 4 or above are receiving support from the respective Continuous Improvement Officer and the Early Years Teaching and Learning Teacher to address the required actions resulting from the recommendations or requirements. Recommendations are summarised in **Appendix 1**.

2.11 The table below highlights the area where the grade(s) have dropped and the planned improvement work to support ELC settings;

ELC Setting	Quality Framework Area	Plans for improvement/support
Aberlour Nursery, Aberlour	How good is our setting? How good is our leadership?	Support from a variety of central officers to meet initial requirements for 16.09.22. Please see <b>Appendix 1</b> for detail. Postponed capital investment works will improve setting and environment.
Rainbow Childcare, Forres	How good is our care, play and learning? How good is our leadership?	Ongoing support from Teaching and Learning team around self-evaluation. Service based training along with manager attending Moray training on self-evaluation. Robust staff observation protocols in place to support collegiate discussion and staff development. Format developed, with support from Teaching and Learning team, to improve quality interactions and progression of children.
Strathisla (FCSS) Nursery, Keith	How good is our care, play and learning? How good is our staff team?	Ongoing support from Teaching and Learning team ensures that quality interactions are being supported. This is being monitored by the manager and depute manager through the self-evaluation process. Improved meal time experiences through collegiate working with whole staff team.
Drumduan Kindergarten, Forres	How good is our leadership?	Support being provided by both Continuous Improvement Officer West and Teaching and Learning Team.

		<p>Examples of good practice documentation in infection control policy is being shared at staff meetings.</p> <p>Nursery manager is working towards relevant qualification with the goal to be completed by June 2023.</p>
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- 2.12 The current gradings of these services will not impact on their partnership agreement with Moray Council to deliver funded Early Learning and Childcare hours as we believe they have the capacity to improve.

### 3. **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) and Principal Teacher Early Years Education Service and Tracey Sutherland, Committee Services Officer 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:

<b>Name of Early Learning and Childcare Provider</b>
<a href="#">Aberlour Nursery, Aberlour</a>
<a href="#">Cullen Nursery, Cullen</a>
<a href="#">Rainbow Childcare, Forres</a>
<a href="#">Strathisla (FCSS) Nursery, Keith</a>
<a href="#">Drumduan Kindergarten, Forres</a>
<a href="#">Roths Nursery, Roths</a>
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