



Health Information and Quality Authority

An tÚdarás Um Fhaisnéis
agus Cáilíocht Sláinte

A Follow Up Inspection Report of a Children's Residential Centre in Health Service Executive Dublin Mid Leinster

Inspection Report ID Number: 474

Fieldwork Date: 5th May 2011

Publication Date: 12th July 2011

Inspection Period: 13

Centre ID Number: 52

Introduction

The Health Information and Quality Authority Social Services Inspectorate (HIQA/SSI) carried out a one day follow-up inspection (see inspection ID 438) of a childrens residential centre in the HSE Dublin Mid Leinster Local Health Area under Section 69 (2) of the Child Care Act 1991. Kieran O'Connor, Inspector Manager returned to the centre on 5th May 2011 to conduct a follow up on the level of compliance with recommendations made, as this inspector had serious concerns about placing very young children in residential care rather than foster care. The inspector met with the Centre Manager, one staff member and one child.

Findings

Overall, the inspector found that the centre continued to be managed well. There were now two children, a boy and a girl aged 12 and eight respectively. A third child, who was subject to a recommendation arising from the full inspection, had gone to another centre in the HSE DML. One of the children told the inspector that she felt safe and liked living in the centre but was looking forward to living in foster care.

A key recommendation made in the previous inspection report and repeated in this inspection, was that the HSE should ensure a formal evaluation of the need for a residential service for children aged 12 years and under, was conducted. The inspector formed the view that measures should be taken by the HSE DML to ensure that the practice of placing children of this age in residential care does not continue, in keeping with the Department of Health and Children's National Policy. This review did not occur on this occasion either. Another recommendation that the manager post be made permanent did not occur.

There were 14 recommendations made. Ten of the recommendations were met, two were met in part, and two were not met.

The inspector notes that although the action plan is dated 11th March 2011, it was not received by the Authority until 13th June 2011.

Action Plan for Inspection No. 438/474

Centre ID: 52
HSE Area: HSE Dublin Mid Leinster

Date Action Plan Dispatched: 11th March 2011
Date Action Plan Updated: 17th June 2011.

No.	Recommendation	Action to be taken	Person Responsible	Implementation Date	SSI Response
1	The HSE should ensure that an independent formal evaluation of the need for this service is conducted as a matter of priority, and a written report sent to SSI HIQA within three months of the publication of this report.	This will be completed within the national capacity review.	National Director of Children and Families Services Office	September 2011	Recommendation not met. No report has been received by HIQA to date.
2	The HSE should ensure that the centre management structure should be reviewed to achieve consistency, the management post is made permanent and that there are no more management changes in the centre for the foreseeable future.	All management and staffing structures will be reviewed during the consolidation process, with a view to achieving consistency and quality care to young people.	Regional Coordinator A/Residential Coordinator	July 2011	Recommendation not met. There is still an acting manager in the centre.

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3	The HSE should ensure that the centre manager receives formal and regular supervision	Centre Managers throughout the service to receive one-to-one supervision no less than once every 8 weeks. Centre Managers will continue to receive Monthly Group Supervision.	A/Coordinator Residential Care	January 2011	Recommendation met. The acting manager now received formal supervision on a regular basis.
4	The HSE should ensure that recording keeping is more succinct.	Young people's daily journals are in all centres and the centre manager will oversee recording and discuss same in supervision sessions with staff. The young person's daily journal will be reviewed during centre manager's supervision.	Centre Manager A/Coordinator Residential Care	January 2011	Recommendation met. Recording is now more succinct.
5	The HSE should ensure that given the young age of the children, the centre is monitored on a monthly basis and a written report of findings issued.	Monitoring Officer has been appointed, has visited the centre, and will monitor the centre on a monthly basis.	Monitoring Officer	May 2011	Recommendation met in part. A monitoring visit had not occurred at the time of the follow up inspection. However the monitoring officer has visited the centre since the follow up inspection.

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6	The HSE should ensure that the complaint of one child is addressed.	The young person's complaint has been addressed and the centre manager is awaiting confirmation from social worker of the date arranged for the young person to meet with an identified person who will further assess risk.	Centre Manager Social worker	March 2011	Recommendation met. The young person's complaint had been addressed and the young person told this inspector she was satisfied with the outcome.
7	The HSE should ensure that the staff team receive further training in children's rights.	Staff team have received updated training in Children First, which also outlines the right of the young person to have their voice listened to.	Centre Manager Coordinator Residential Care	May 2011	Recommendation met in part. The staff team need to receive further training in other rights such as access to information, complaints etc. as required by the recommendation.
8	The HSE should ensure that the Irish Association of Young People in Care is invited to visit the centre.	IAYPIC have visited the centre since time of inspection.	Centre Manager	March 2011	Recommendation met. The Irish Association of Young people in Care had visited the centre since the time of inspection.

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9	The HSE should ensure that all children have a comprehensive care plan that reflects their needs.	Care plans have been requested and both young people currently have up to date care plans on file in the centre.	Centre Manager Social Worker	March 2011	Recommendation met. All young people now have a care plan.
10	The HSE should ensure that statutory care plan reviews are held frequently for young children and have the placement of children in family type placements as priority.	Both young people have had Child in Care Reviews since time of inspection. The youngest child has met prospective foster family and is completing a planned transition period with this family. The older child is currently on a planned move home.	Social Worker Centre Manager	May 2011 July 2011	Recommendation met. Both reviews had taken place.
11	The HSE should ensure one child is found a suitable and appropriate foster care placement as soon as possible.	The mentioned young person has met an identified foster family. A possible move date has been agreed pending a review of visits and the young person's view.	Centre Manager Social Worker	May 2011	Recommendation met. A foster placement has been identified and a transition plan was active at the time of the follow up inspection.

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12	The HSE (DML) should ensure that staff receive further training in the management of children's behaviour.	All staff receive regular TCI training in the management of crisis behaviour. Behaviour Management Plans are completed for young people in the centre, and the centre manager ensures their implementation. Behaviour Management Plans are reviewed during centre manager supervision.	Centre Manager Coordinator Residential Care	January 2011	Recommendation met. The staff team had received further training in behaviour management.
13	The HSE should ensure that children in the centre are kept safe from abuse from their peers as required by standard 5 of the children's standards as a matter of priority.	The young person involved in hitting other young people was moved to another centre, in order to reduce the risk to young people currently living in this centre.	Social Work Team Leader Coordinator Residential Care	January 2011	Recommendation met. The young person is now safe from abuse from their peers as required by standard 5 of the children's standards.
14	The HSE should ensure that the need for the protective surround covering the stairs is reviewed.	A consolidation process is underway, and the centre will move premises.		July 2011	Recommendation met. This has been reviewed and the plan is to move premises.