



**Health
Information
and Quality
Authority**

An tÚdarás Um Fhaisnéis
agus Cáilíocht Sláinte

**Social Services
Inspectorate**

**A Follow-Up Inspection Report
of a Children's Residential Centre
in the HSE Dublin North East Area**

**Inspection Report ID: 516
Follow Up Date: 17th January 2012
Publication Date: 23rd January 2012
Inspection Period: 14
Centre ID Number: 20**

Introduction

The Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA), Social Services Inspectorate (SSI) carried out an announced follow-up inspection of a Health Service Executive (HSE) children's residential centre in the Dublin North East Local Health Area (DNE) under section 69 (2) of the Child Care Act 1991. This follow-up inspection was carried out by Bronagh Gibson (inspector). The purpose of this inspection was to assess the implementation of the HSE action plan for this centre (see inspection report ID 478). As part of the inspection fieldwork, the inspector interviewed the Acting Centre Manager and the Acting Alternative Care Manager.

Findings

The inspector found that six of the 13 recommendations made had been met; two were partly met; four were not met and one could not be assessed at the time of the inspection fieldwork (see recommendation 5).

At the time of the follow-up inspection there were five children living in the centre. One child had been discharged from the centre since the last inspection and was successfully placed in a foster care placement. There were no admissions since the last inspection.

The centre had made child protection reports on two children since the last inspection and these were found to have been responded to by the assigned social workers. One child had made a complaint since the last inspection and this was found to have been appropriately dealt with and reported.

Please see the attached action plan.

Social Services Inspectorate

Action Plan for Inspection No. 478/516

Centre ID: 20
HSE Area: Dublin North East

Date Action Plan Dispatched: 3rd October 2011

No.	Recommendation	Action to be taken	Person Responsible	Implementation Date	SSI Response
1	<p>The HSEDNE should ensure that the centre's statement of purpose and function</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is amended to reflect that residential care is provided from 13 to 18 years clearly indicates specific gate-keeping mechanisms that ensure the National Policy on placing children aged 12 and under in residential care in exceptional circumstances is followed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The purpose and function has being amended to reflect that residential care is provided from 13 to 18 years This is reflected in the purpose and function 	Social Care Manager	Completed	Recommendation met
2	<p>The HSEDNE should ensure that that supervision is provided in accordance with HSE policy.</p>	<p>Timetable of staff supervision has being drawn up in accordance with HSE Policy.</p>	Social Care Manager	Ongoing	<p>Recommendation not met</p> <p>The provision of supervision had improved since the last inspection however, providing it within the timeframe stated in the centre's policies, continued to be an area that required attention by the Acting Centre Manager. This will be assessed again at the time of the next full inspection.</p>

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3	The HSEDNE should ensure that the process of securing a foster care placement for one child is reviewed and that finding a foster care placement remains a priority for this child and the social work department involved.	Social Care Manager wrote a letter on 28/09/2011 to the young person's social worker, social work team leader and Alternative Care Manager expressing the need for a foster placement to be secured.	Social Care Manager	Ongoing	Recommendation not met The HSEDNE was continuing to source an appropriate foster care placement for this child. His/her placement was prioritised in that it was reviewed weekly at the resource panel meetings, was judicially reviewed regularly, and was a priority for the Service Implementation Team for the region. Despite these efforts however, this child remained in residential care.
4	The HSEDNE should ensure that, in accordance with National Policy, the care plan for the child under the age of 12 years is reviewed monthly with a view to identifying a suitable foster placement urgently.	Social Care Manager also addressed this recommendation in the letter written 28/09/2011. Social Work team leader wrote back on 05/10/2011 stating that monthly meetings to discuss the child's placement can be arranged and the centre is currently awaiting a date.	Social Care Manager	Awaiting a date for monthly meetings	Recommendation met

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5	<p>The HSEDNE should ensure that the process of securing funding for private foster care placements is reviewed to ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding is sanctioned before the child is notified of the placement Funding is sanctioned before social work resources are inappropriately engaged in a protracted process of assessing, approving and preparing foster carers. 	<p>The centre has noted the recommendation and will in future have regard to this when dealing with foster placements for young people placed in our care.</p>	Social Care Manager	Implemented	<p>Not assessed The inspector could not assess the implementation of this recommendation as no foster care placements had been sourced for a child since the last inspection. This will be assessed again at the time of the next inspection.</p>
6	<p>The HSEDNE should ensure that all social workers read children's files from time to time, in accordance with the standards.</p>	<p>The centre will liaise with the young people social workers in notifying them on this recommendation and ensuring its complementation.</p>	Social Care Manager	<p>Letters will be written to the young people's social workers advising of the recommendation by the 26th of October 2011.</p>	<p>Recommendation partly met This area of practice had improved since the last inspection however, not all social workers read the children's files from time to time. This recommendation still stands.</p>

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7	The HSEDNE should ensure that the outcome of the HSE Monitoring Officer's concern regarding the discharge of one child is provided to the Authority.	The centre will contact the monitor in relation to this recommendation	Social Care Manager	03/11/11	Recommendation not met The outcome of the concerns in relation to this child was not forwarded to the Authority by the HSEDNE. This recommendation still stands.
8	The HSEDNE should ensure that the care plan template for the area is reviewed and amended to ensure the information it contains is relevant and adequate.	The centre will contact the social workers and social work team leaders in relation to this recommendation	Social Care Manager	03/11/11	Recommendation not met The care plan template in use in this region was not reviewed or amended by the HSEDNE. This recommendation still stands.
9	The HSEDNE should ensure that the centre is provided with all of the required statutory information by referring social work departments, and within an acceptable timeframe.	The centre will liaise with the social work department in ensuring this recommendation is met.	Social Care Manager	Ongoing	Recommendation met

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10	<p>The HSEDNE should ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> all significant events are reviewed by the Acting Centre Manager and assigned social workers to ensure that all child protection concerns have been identified and dealt with children's care files are structured in such a way to show the chronology of events following the reporting of a child protection concern to social work departments access by centre staff to social networking sites in a controlled manner, and any related policies and/or procedures associated with this, are reviewed by the HSEDNE to ensure that children's internet activity can be monitored in order to safeguard them. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The significant event review group which is established in the centre will continue to review significant events and will ensure any child protection concerns will be notified to the social work department. A timetable of these meetings has being established. The centre will advise social workers of this request also Review of the filling systems is ongoing Social Care manager has applied for clearance to view such sites on the internet in the centre. 	Social Care Manager	<p>Letters to be written to the social workers by the 28th of October 2011. Filling system will be reviewed by 11th of November 2011 Social Care Manger awaiting response for clearance to view social networking sites.</p>	Recommendation met

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11	The HSEDNE should ensure that child protection concerns in relation to one child are assessed by the social work department involved as a matter of priority.	The child protection concern in relation one child has being notified to the young person's social worker and The centre has received a satisfactory response.	Social Care Manager	Completed	Recommendation met
12	The HSEDNE should ensure that maintenance repairs are carried out promptly and that the centre has a rolling programme of maintenance in accordance with the standard.	The centre will continue to ensure that the maintenance department are notified swiftly of any repairs to be carried out and will ensure that every effort is made to ensure that they are carried out promptly.	Social Care Manager	Ongoing	Recommendation met
13	The HSEDNE should ensure that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • fire drills are carried out regularly and at the time of each new admission • repairs to fire doors are carried out as a matter of priority. 	Repairs to fire doors have been completed. A timetable of regular fire drills has been drawn up. The centre has sought a new fire log from the local fire officer.	Social Care Manager	Completed	Recommendation partly met The centre had addressed all of the recommendations however, one of the fire doors required fixing again. This should be attended to by the HSEDNE as a matter of priority.