



**Health  
Information  
and Quality  
Authority**

An tÚdarás Um Fhaisnéis  
agus Cáilíocht Sláinte

**Social Services  
Inspectorate**

**A**

**CHILDREN'S RESIDENTIAL CENTRE**

**IN THE**

**HSE SOUTH AREA**

**Follow Up Inspection Report**

***INSPECTION REPORT ID NUMBER: 285***

**Follow up inspection fieldwork date: 16th January 2009**

**Publication Date: 5<sup>th</sup> February 2009**

**SSI Inspection Period: Year 11**

**Centre ID Number: 65**

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## **Introduction**

The Health Information and Quality Authority Social Services Inspectorate (HIQA/SSI) carried out a one day follow-up inspection (see inspection ID 234) of a High Support Unit. in the HSE South Local Health Area under Section 69 (2) of the Child Care Act 1991. The lead inspector, Kieran O'Connor, returned to the centre on 20<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2008 to follow up on the level of compliance with recommendations made. The inspector met with the centre manager, two staff member and one young person. This inspector met with the child care manager line manager of the unit two weeks subsequent to the inspection. There was now one young person living in the centre and another child in a shared care arrangement.

## **Findings**

Overall, there was a high level of compliance with recommendations of the last inspection. The general management of the unit improved. There was now a clear practice at all levels of the service that any consideration of special leave was secondary to the needs of the service. There was now complete clarity around the function of and priority of accountability within formal supervision. The inspector found that there had been a marked improvement in the management of the young people's behaviour. There was concern in the previous inspection about bullying, unauthorised absences and the general management of behaviour. These behaviours had now ceased. Concerns in relation to the safety of the children had been addressed. One young person interviewed by this inspector said that they felt safe and liked living in the centre. The outstanding requirements of a recent health and safety audit had been met in full.

However, this inspector was concerned to find that a recommendation made to make available all relevant reports to the unit only occurred two weeks after this inspection follow up. The recommendation that the HSE South conduct a review of the reasons for this delay of well over a year has not occurred and this must be addressed as a matter of priority.

# Social Services Inspectorate

## Action Plan for Inspection No. 285

Centre ID: 65  
HSE Area: HSE South

Date Action Plan Dispatched: 11<sup>th</sup> November 2008  
Date Action Plan Updated: 5<sup>th</sup> February 2009

No.	Recommendation	Action to be taken	Person Responsible	Implementation Date	SSI Response
1	The HSE South should ensure that the external line manager clarify with the staff team that the primary function of formal supervision is accountability.	Discussed with Area Child Care Manager. Importance of accountability highlighted. Issue to be taken up with Regional Training Dept as support and professional development are equally given priority in training. Further meeting to be arranged with Local Management and staff.	Manager	Dec 08	<b>Recommendation met.</b>
2	The HSE South should ensure that there is sufficient management available all year and risk assess any applications for discretionary leave giving priority to the contingences of the unit.	Leave assed on basis of needs on service and statutory obligations.	General Manager Manager	Dec 08	<b>Recommendation met.</b>
3	The HSE South should conduct a review of the reason for a delay of one year subsequent to the placement of one young person in making professional reports available to the Unit and ensure that the remaining reports are made available as a matter of priority.	Issue to be brought to the attention of the relevant areas LHO Office for implementation.	General Manager.	Jan 09	<b>Recommendation not met.</b>  This review has not taken place and this recommendation should be implemented as a matter of priority.

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4	The HSE South should ensure that all social workers read centre files from time to time.	Area Child care Manager to notify all Principal Social Workers from referring areas.	Area Child Care Manager	Dec08	<b>Recommendation met.</b>
5	The HSE South should review the placement of one young person.	Review carried out on 16th Sept 08	All personnel involved in Care Plan.	16th Sept 08	<b>Recommendation met.</b>
6	The HSE South should ensure that external and internal management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o review all absences without authority.</li> <li>o review the implementation all aspects of Therapeutic Crisis Intervention.</li> <li>o review their protocol in relation to garda contact at the centre.</li> </ul>	A Review/planning meeting to be set up in Jan 09 to focus on areas highlighted.	General Manager, Area Child Care Manager and Manager of	Jan 09	<b>Recommendation met.</b>

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7	The HSE South should ensure that young people in the centre are safe and strengthen the staff's management of the behavior of one young person.	Ongoing training in behavior management. Review of Individual Crisis Management Plans Group work with residents. Practical consequences. Regular review of Care Plan. Fill vacant staffing positions.	General Manager Area Child Care Manager. Manager Personnel Dept	March 09	<b>Recommendation met.</b>
8	The HSE South should review some aspects of behavior management in the unit including bullying among young people.	Set up a task force to review Bullying Policy. Training needs assessment re behavior management.	Manager	March 09	<b>Recommendation met.</b>
9	The HSE South should ensure completion of all outstanding requirements of a recent health and safety audit.	Reviewed 2008 Health and Safety Statement to be finalized.	Manager	Jan 09	<b>Recommendation met.</b>
10	The HSE South should ensure that the front entrance and the back yard is made more secure and efforts are made to revitalise the basket ball pitch on the back ground owned by the unit.	Maintenance Dept to erect appropriate type required	Manager HSE Maintenance Dept	April 08	<b>Recommendation met in part.</b>  Landscaping plans are in place to secure more privacy and this is to commence soon and to revitalise the basketball pitch.

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11	The HSE South should commence planning an alternative location for this unit.	Task force to be established with a terms of reference to find a suitable long-term location.	General Manager. Area Child Care Manager Manager	Jan 09	<b>Recommendation met in part.</b>  A strategic team has commenced work to seek alternative accommodation.
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