



**Health
Information
and Quality
Authority**

An tÚdarás Um Fhaisnéis
agus Cáilíocht Sláinte

**Social Services
Inspectorate**

A

**CHILDREN'S RESIDENTIAL CENTRE
IN THE
HSE DUBLIN NORTH EAST AREA**

FOLLOW-UP INSPECTION REPORT

ID NUMBER: 348

Follow-up Inspection Date: 25th August 2009

Publication Date: 27th August 2009

SSI Inspection Period: 11

Centre ID Number: 24

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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) residential care unit in the Dublin North East Local Health Area (DNE) under section 69 (2) of the Child Care Act 1991. This inspection was carried out by Bronagh Gibson, inspector, on the 25th of August 2009. The purpose of this inspection was to assess the HSE action plan in terms of compliance with the recommendations made in the last inspection (see *inspection ID 310*).

Findings.

The inspector found that the centre had made good efforts to meet the recommendations made in the last report. Five of these had been met in full, and one was ongoing and three were not met. The recommendation that was ongoing was in relation to the development of a policy on the use of computers in the centre. The alternative care manager had begun this process and this will be checked during the next inspection. Those not met were in relation to maintenance and fire safety. These were addressed by the SSI with the LHM.

Inspectors found that there was one discharge from, and two admissions to the centre since the last inspection. One young person was appropriately placed and the other was a nine year old with a high level of need. This child had had forty foster care placements (due to difficult to manage behaviours), and a mild to moderate learning disability, the extent of which was inconclusive due to environmental factors affecting the assessment outcome. This child required 1:1 supervision by centre staff on an ongoing basis due to his/her inability to socialise appropriately and keep himself/herself safe. The team were found to be flexible in this regard, enthusiastic to work with the child in an effective manner, and made every effort to keep him/her safe. Despite this, this was ineffective at times.

It was acknowledged at the time of admission that this was not the appropriate placement for this child, but no alternative placement was available. This was to be an interim placement of short duration, whilst a long-term, stable environment was being sought. A parallel referral was made to another centre that was deemed more appropriate; however, the centre managers were informed that the referral would not be dealt with until the autumn of 2009, as this was when a placement may become available. Inspectors noted that there was an interval of two months between statutory care plan reviews for this child, and found this to be unsatisfactory. The inspector recommends that the HSE (DNE) ensures that:

- an appropriate long-term placement is found for this child as a matter of priority
- the child is re-assessed to determine the full extent of their disability and referred to the appropriate services following this determination
- statutory care plan reviews are held every three weeks
- the centre managers risk assesses this placement on a regular basis
- the HSE monitoring officer monitors this placement and informs the SSI of its progress.

See attached action plan

Social Services Inspectorate

Action Plan for Inspection No. 310 / 348

Centre ID: 24
HSE Area: HSE Dublin North East

Date Action Plan Dispatched: 12th June 2009
Date Action Plan Updated: 27th August 2009

| No. | Recommendation | Action to be taken | Person Responsible | Implementation Date | SSI Response |
|-----|---|--|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| 1 | The HSE (DNE) should ensure that the centre's statement of purpose and function states how long a young person may stay in the centre and lists key policies in the centre. | The Purpose & Function for the centre has been amended to clearly outline the length of stay of a young person in the Centre and includes a list of key policies that pertain in the centre. | Social Care Manager | Completed | Recommendation Met |
| 2 | The HSE (DNE) should ensure that the baby of one of the residents is placed on the centre register. | The details for the baby of one of the residents has now been placed on the centre register. | Social Care Manager | Completed | Recommendation Met |
| 3 | The HSE (DNE) should ensure that the centre manager and social worker develop a procedure for reporting significant events for the baby separate to those of the baby's mother. | All significant events pertaining to the young person and her baby are now reported separately. | Social Care Manager | Completed | Recommendation Met |

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| 4 | The HSE (DNE) should ensure that the centre has a policy on computer generated information that is in keeping with legislation. | The Alternative Care Manager and Social Care Manager are developing a policy on computer generated information that is in keeping with legislation. In addition training has been scheduled for centre staff on Freedom of Information and Data Protection requirements. | Alternative Care Manager Social Care Manager | July 2009 | Ongoing To be checked during next inspection |
| 5 | The HSE (DNE) should ensure that a plan is written, which names individuals who will provide support services to this young person and her baby, with their roles and responsibilities clearly identified, before this young person returns home. | A plan has been completed which clearly outlines the roles and responsibilities of named individuals who will provide support services to this young person and her baby before she returns home. | Principal Social Worker | Completed | Recommendation Met |
| 6 | The HSE (DNE) should ensure that a system of reviewing persistent absences at risk is developed by the centre manager and alternative care manager, in order to ensure they are notified as child protection concerns when necessary. | The HSE now deals with persistent absences under the new national joint protocol between the Garda Síochána and the HSE regarding all children who go missing from care. This protocol sets out the roles and responsibilities of both agencies in relation to children going missing from care. However locally, where there are significant absences, a significant review group will be called by the Alternative Care Manager to look at managing the risk associated with the absence and establish if that risk constitutes a child protection concern, and if so a formal notification will be made to the Principal Social Worker. | Alternative Care Manager Social Care Manager Principal Social Worker | Ongoing | Recommendation Met To be checked during next inspection |

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| 7 | The HSE (DNE) should ensure that the centre is maintained to a good standard, and that outstanding maintenance needs are attended to. | The HSE will ensure that all outstanding maintenance works are completed by the end of September, 2009. | Social Care Manager Maintenance Officer | September, 2009 | Recommendation Not Met |
| 8 | The HSE (DNE) should ensure that all fire fighting equipment indicates when it was last serviced and that the centre receives written confirmation from a qualified architect or certified engineer stating the centre was compliant with standard 10.19. | All fire fighting equipment in the centre now indicates when it was last serviced. Arrangements are being made for written confirmation to be forwarded from a qualified architect or certified engineer stating that the centre is compliant with standard 10.19. | Social Care Manager HSE Fire Services Officer | Completed August, 2009 | Recommendation Not Met |