
NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

10 September 2019

Audit and Scrutiny Committee

Title: Annual Report – School and Early Learning & Childcare Inspections 2018-19

Purpose: To inform the Audit and Scrutiny Committee of the performance of North Ayrshire schools and early learning and childcare settings in external inspections published during session 2018-19.

Recommendation: That the Audit and Scrutiny Committee:

- a) notes the contents of this report;
- b) commends the performance of our schools in inspections led by Education Scotland and the Care Inspectorate; and
- c) agrees to receive an update report from the Head of Education after the follow-through inspection of Loudoun-Montgomery Primary School and Early Years Class.

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 Education Scotland published inspection reports on seven educational establishments in North Ayrshire in session 2018-19. The performance of our schools and centres was, in the main, very positive.
- 1.2 The Care Inspectorate published inspection reports on twenty local authority early learning and childcare establishments in North Ayrshire in session 2018-19. The performance of these establishments was extremely positive.
- 1.3 Following an inspection of the Education Authority, Education Scotland published a report in July 2018 which concluded that North Ayrshire Council is making very good progress with improving learning, raising attainment and closing the poverty related attainment gap.
- 1.4 Action has been taken by individual schools, supported by the service, to celebrate strengths and to address areas for improvement identified in the inspection reports.

2. Background

- 2.1 Schools are subject to periodic external evaluation by the national inspection agency, Education Scotland. Early Learning and Childcare settings are inspected by both Education Scotland and the Care Inspectorate.
- 2.2 Education Scotland reports on the quality of school and early years provision under the following quality indicators, taken from the self-evaluation framework *How Good is our School?* (4th edition):
- Leadership of change
 - Learning, teaching and assessment
 - Raising attainment and achievement (primary, secondary, ASN schools)
 - Securing children's progress (Early learning & childcare)
 - Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion
- 2.3 The Care Inspectorate reports on the quality of early learning and childcare provision under the following quality indicators:
- Quality of care and support
 - Quality of environment
 - Quality of staffing
 - Quality of management and leadership
- 2.4 All inspections focus on at least two quality indicators. In session 2018-19, Education Scotland carried out over 275 inspections and around 30 follow-through inspections in schools and early learning and childcare settings across Scotland. The number of Education Scotland inspections in North Ayrshire over the same period was seven. The inspection outcomes are summarised at Appendix 1 (attached) and the inspection reports are attached at Appendices 2 ([click here](#)) and 3 ([click here](#)).
- 2.5 Education Scotland uses a six-point scale to report on the performance of the educational establishment in each of the assessed quality indicators. The categories of the six-point scale are: excellent, very good, good, satisfactory, weak and unsatisfactory. Further detail on the meaning of the six-point scale is included at Appendix 4 ([click here](#))
- 2.6 In session 2018-19 the performance of North Ayrshire schools in Education Scotland inspections was, in the main, very positive. By way of comparison in the table below, each grade has been assigned a numerical value to show our average performance against the national performance. The higher the value, the better the performance.

Quality Indicator	National Average Performance 2018-19*	North Ayrshire Average Performance 2018-19*
Leadership of change	3.56	4.00
Learning, teaching and assessment	3.67	4.29
Raising attainment and achievement	3.59	4.14
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	3.73	4.00

* Excellent = 6; Very Good = 5; Good = 4; Satisfactory = 3; Weak = 2; Unsatisfactory = 1

2.7 The Education Scotland inspection reports (at Appendix 2 - [click here](#)) highlight a number of key strengths common to several of the establishments they visited in North Ayrshire. Notable strengths have been identified in the following areas:

- Strong leadership of the head teacher and senior leadership team
- Nurturing and inclusive learning environments
- Strong sense of partnership and community
- Very positive relationships
- Good evidence of staff teamwork having a positive impact on children's learning
- High quality learning and teaching

2.8 Areas for improvement in North Ayrshire were identified through the inspection reports. The improvement actions frequently include the wording "continue" or "build on", demonstrating that the establishments are already beginning to take steps to address these points. Common themes in 2018-19 are:

- Continue to take steps to raise attainment
- Build on existing approaches to assessment and moderation
- Continue to focus on improving the quality of learning, teaching and assessment.

2.9 Following the inspection of Loudoun-Montgomery Primary School and Early Years Class, a full action plan was developed to support the school to make improvements in the key areas identified by inspectors. Education Scotland will carry-out a follow-up inspection in this school within the next 6-12 months. An interim Head Teacher was appointed to lead the work of the school, following the retirement of the previous Head Teacher in March 2019. Ongoing support is being provided to the school in the implementation of this plan. An interim school review is planned by the service to take place in October 2019, where progress towards the action plan will be evaluated.

2.10 In session 2018-19 the performance of North Ayrshire Early Learning and Childcare centres and classes in Care Inspectorate inspections was very positive. A total of twenty Local Authority Early Years Centres and Classes were inspected and the average performances of these establishments is listed below. Comparator data with the national picture is not available. In addition to this, there were eight Care Inspectorate inspections among our funded providers. The inspection outcomes for all establishments are summarised at Appendix 1, attached.

Quality Indicator	North Ayrshire Average Performance 2018-19*
Quality of care and support	5.00
Quality of environment	4.92
Quality of staffing	4.29
Quality of management and leadership	4.67

* Excellent = 6; Very Good = 5; Good = 4; Adequate = 3; Weak = 2; Unsatisfactory = 1

2.11 Common strengths from the Care Inspectorate reports (at Appendix 3 - [click here](#)) on early learning and childcare settings in North Ayrshire in 2018-19 are :

- Children are happy, settled, confident and having fun
- Relationships in the early learning and childcare setting are positive
- Staff know the children and families well

- Staff are responsive and consult children about play and learning
- There are high quality resources and equipment
- There is effective communication with parents/carers
- The provision is underpinned by Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC)
- There are strong community links

2.12 Care Inspectorate reports included one improvement requirement and five recommendations in total for early learning and childcare establishments in North Ayrshire. Plans are in place to address all requirements and recommendations.

2.13 Education Scotland published an inspection report on North Ayrshire Council Education Authority in July 2018. This inspection focused on an evaluation of how well North Ayrshire Council is improving learning, raising attainment and closing the poverty related attainment gap. The report (attached at Appendix 5 - [click here](#)) is very positive and concludes that North Ayrshire Council is making very good progress toward this aim.

2.14 As part of the service's commitment to continuous improvement, inspection outcomes have been used alongside feedback and engagement sessions with head teachers and other senior officers, to feed into an evaluation of the service's Quality Improvement Framework, which has been refreshed for session 2019-20. The updated framework will be implemented from September 2019 and is supported by a programme of professional learning opportunities for schools. The Quality Improvement Framework is designed to give schools, the service and elected members assurance that self-evaluation is a key aspect of the work of our schools and that this leads consistently to planned improvements, based on local contexts.

3. Proposals

3.1 It is proposed that the Audit and Scrutiny Committee:

- (a) notes the contents of this report;
- (b) commends the performance of our schools in inspections led by Education Scotland and the Care Inspectorate; and
- (c) agrees to receive an update report from the Head of Education after the follow-through inspection of Loudoun-Montgomery Primary School and Early Years Class.

4. Implications/Socio-economic Duty

Financial

4.1 None.

Human Resources

4.2 None.

Legal

4.3 None.

Equality/Socio-economic

4.4 None.

Environmental and Sustainability

4.5 None.

Key Priorities

4.6 Aspiring Communities priority: “Children and young people experience the best start in life”.

Community Wealth Building

4.7 None.

5. Consultation

5.1 There has been no specific consultation on the contents of this report, beyond what has been described above at paragraph 2.14.

Audrey Sutton
Executive Director Communities (Interim)

For further information please contact **Andrew McClelland, Head of Service (Education)**, on **01294 324413**.

Background Papers

None.

APPENDIX 1

External Evaluations

Education Scotland reported on 7 inspections in our schools in the period between 1st August 2018 and 31st of July 2019. The Care Inspectorate carried out 7 inspections in our Early Years during the same period. The evaluations were as follows:

Education Scotland (HMle) – Primary/Secondary Schools

Establishment	Date of inspection published	Leadership of Change	Learning, Teaching and Assessment	Raising attainment and achievement	Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion
St. Palladius' Primary School	30/10/2018	Not Assessed	Good	Good	Not Assessed
Mayfield Primary School	04/12/2018	Very Good	Very Good	Very Good	Very Good
Loudoun-Montgomery Primary School	12/03/2019	Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak
St. Winning's Primary School	12/03/2019	Not Assessed	Good	Good	Not Assessed
St. Matthew's Academy	30/04/2019	Not Assessed	Very Good	Very Good	Not Assessed
St Mary's Primary School	25/06/2019	Very Good	Very Good	Good	Very Good
Haysholm School	25/06/2019	Not Assessed	Very Good	Very Good	Not Assessed

Education Scotland (HMle) – Early Learning & Childcare Settings

Establishment	Date of inspection published	Leadership of Change	Learning, Teaching and Assessment	Securing Children's Progress	Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion
Mayfield PS Early Years	04/12/2018	Very Good	Very Good	Very Good	Very Good
Loudoun-Montgomery PS Early Years	12/03/2019	Weak	Satisfactory	Satisfactory	Weak

Care Inspectorate – Early Learning & Childcare Settings

Establishment	Date of inspection published	Quality of Care and Support	Quality of Environment	Quality of Staffing	Quality of Management and Leadership
Hayocks PS Early Years	05/09/2018	Very Good	Not Assessed	Not Assessed	Very Good
Stanley PS Early Years	12/09/2018	Very Good	Not Assessed	Not Assessed	Very Good
Kilmory PS Early Years	25/09/2018	Very Good	Not Assessed	Good	Not Assessed
Shiskine PS Early Years	25/09/2018	Very Good	Not Assessed	Good	Not Assessed
Corrie PS Early Years	25/09/2018	Very Good	Not Assessed	Good	Not Assessed
Largs Early Years Centre	25/10/2018	Very Good	Very Good	Very Good	Very Good
Springvale Early Years Centre	14/11/2018	Excellent	Not Assessed	Very Good	Not Assessed
St Luke's PS Early Years	22/11/2018	Very Good	Very Good	Not Assessed	Not Assessed
St. Bridget's PS Early Years	30/11/2018	Excellent	Excellent	Not Assessed	Not Assessed
Mayfield PS Early Years	04/12/2018	Very Good	Very Good	Very Good	Very Good
Blacklands PS Early Years	05/12/2018	Very Good	Very Good	Not Assessed	Not Assessed
Abbey PS Early Years	07/12/2018	Excellent	Very Good	Not Assessed	Not Assessed
Elderbank PS Early Years	11/12/2018	Excellent	Very Good	Not Assessed	Not Assessed
Garnock CC Early Years	29/01/2019	Good	Very Good	Not Assessed	Not Assessed
Garnock Valley Early Years Centre	01/02/2019	Very Good	Very Good	Not Assessed	Not Assessed
St John's PS Early Years	27/02/2019	Very Good	Not Assessed	Not Assessed	Very Good
Loudoun-Montgomery PS Early Years	12/03/2019	Adequate	Good	Adequate	Adequate
Fairlie PS Early Years	18/04/2019	Good	Good	Not Assessed	Not Assessed
St Peter's PS Early Years	03/05/2019	Very Good	Very Good	Not Assessed	Not Assessed
Ardeer PS Early Years	24/05/2019	Very Good	Very Good	Not Assessed	Not Assessed

Care Inspectorate – Early Learning & Childcare Settings (Funded Providers)

Establishment	Date of inspection published	Quality of Care and Support	Quality of Environment	Quality of Staffing	Quality of Management and Leadership
Rainbow Cottage Nursery	05/07/2018	Good	Not Assessed	Adequate	Not Assessed
Whitehirst Park Private Nursery	06/12/2018	Good	Not Assessed	Good	Not Assessed
Little Deers Nursery	13/12/2018	Adequate	Adequate	Adequate	Adequate
Owl & Pussycat Too Nursery	19/03/2019	Very Good	Very Good	Not Assessed	Not Assessed
Playtime Nursery	02/05/2019	Very Good	Very Good	Not Assessed	Not Assessed
Yellow Brick Road Nursery	16/05/2019	Very Good	Very Good	Very Good	Good
West Kilbride Village Nursery	22/05/2019	Very Good	Not Assessed	Not Assessed	Very Good
Treetops Too Nursery	29/05/2019	Good	Very Good	Good	Very Good