



**A**  
**CHILDREN'S RESIDENTIAL CENTRE**  
**IN**  
**HSE DUBLIN MID LEINSTER**

***INSPECTION REPORT ID NUMBER: 424***

**Follow up inspection fieldwork dates 15th October 2010**  
**Publication Date: 12<sup>th</sup> November 2010**  
**SSI Inspection Period: year 12**  
**Centre ID Number: 57**

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## Introduction

The Health Information and Quality Authority Social Services Inspectorate (HIQA/SSI) carried out a one day unannounced follow-up inspection (see inspection ID 389) of a community children's residential centre in the HSE Dublin Mid Leinster Local Health Area under Section 69 (2) of the Child Care Act 1991. The inspector manager Kieran O'Connor returned to the centre on 15th October 2010, to follow up on the level of compliance with recommendations made but not implemented by the time of the last follow up inspection in March 2010.

The inspector met with the acting centre manager, two of the staff team and one child who was living in the centre at the time of the follow up inspection. Inspectors also met with child's assigned social worker two weeks subsequent to this inspection.

The inspector found that there continued to be a warm family like atmosphere in the centre and staff morale was good. The centre was an attractive house in a small mature development and children now, and in the past, have said they like the fact that their home is indistinguishable from any other homes in the area. The staff team ensured that this continued by good attention to the upkeep and maintenance both inside and outside the house.

This was the second follow up inspection as the inspector had concerns that key recommendations from the inspection in 2009 had not been met in March 2010. This inspector was concerned that recommendations in this follow up inspection directed primarily at HSE (DML) professionals external to the centre, had still not been fully implemented. However, this inspector found that the manager and staff team continue to provide a very good standard of care to this young child in the centre.

Overall, the inspector found the centre continues to be well managed.

## Findings

### In the last follow up inspection in March 2010:

#### Recommendations were met in relation to:

##### *Recommendation (1) Purpose and function:*

The centre now caters for children and young people between 13 and 17 years.

##### *Recommendation (8) Education:*

An educational course had been located for one young person.

##### *Recommendation (5) Social work:*

The young person concerned was now supported by the principle social worker and aftercare service.

##### *Recommendation (6) Aftercare:*

A written aftercare plan on one young person was now in place.

##### *Recommendation (10) Premises:*

Funding had been secured and work had commenced on upgrading the centre.

## **Recommendations were met in part in relation to:**

### *Recommendation (2) Monitoring:*

A new audit system has been introduced but had not been completed.

### *Recommendation (9) Emotional and specialist services:*

A recommendation that a psychological assessment on one child had now been completed. However, there were factual errors in the report. This recommendation needs to be revisited.

### *Recommendation (7) Spiritual Needs for Young People:*

This needed to be completed.

## **Recommendations not met in relation to:**

### *Recommendation (3) Foster care:*

In relation to the acquisition of a foster family for one child, although efforts had been made, this recommendation had not been met at the time of the follow up inspection. As recommended in three previous inspection reports, given her young age, securing a placement in foster care needed to be given the highest priority. HIQA SSI required written evidence of progress in this matter within three months of the date of this report.

### *Recommendation (4): Access plan:*

An annual plan for sibling access for one young person needed to be drawn up, and a copy sent to the inspector as a matter of priority.

## **Updated follow up inspection report finding on recommendations**

There had been no progress in any of the recommendations partly met, and not met, since the last follow up inspection six months ago. A young child was still in residential care rather than foster care, and a recommendation that a written review of progress in the matter be sent to HIQA SSI within three months of the publication of the last follow up report in April 2010 had not happened at the time of the inspection follow up.

The recommendation in relation to the acquisition of a new psychological assessment on a child had not occurred. This assessment contained serious inaccuracies and this was brought to the attention of the HSE (DML). This inspector is seriously concerned that this has not been rectified as a matter of priority in the child's best interests over five months later.

The child's care plan was over 18 months old and therefore did not reflect the current needs of the child. The child was subject to a review in April 2010. This inspector recommended that the child's care plan is updated as a matter of urgency.

This inspector learnt that an updated care plan was received three weeks subsequent to this follow up inspection visit. However there were factual inaccuracies in this care plan and this inspector recommends that they be corrected as a matter of urgency.

A recommendation for an annual plan for sibling access for one young person was not devised. A written review of the placement of another young person had not been issued. This Inspector now recommends that these reports are completed, and sent to HIQA SSI, one month from the publication of this report.

The HSE (DML) should also provide written confirmation that a new psychological assessment has been completed.

In addition, the provision of speech therapy for one child had ceased over 12 months ago. The centre manager wrote to the social work department informing them of this in May 2010. This delay is unacceptable. This inspector recommends that this service is provided as a matter of priority, as required under the standards.

This inspector commends the acting centre manager for her swift implementation of recommendations which are in her power to implement, but is seriously concerned about recommendations made about matters external to the centre, over one and a half years ago, that have yet to be fully implemented.

**Action Plan for Inspection No. 389/424**

**Centre ID:** 57  
**HSE Area:** HSE DML

**Date Action Plan Dispatched:** 24<sup>th</sup> April 2010  
**Date Action plan Updated:** 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2010.

No.	Recommendation	Action to be taken	Person Responsible	Implementation Date	SSI Response
1	The HSE DML should review its purpose and function in relation to the age of children on admission.	<p>The Centre's Purpose and Function has been reviewed and amended.</p> <p>The Centre now caters to males and females between the ages of 13 and 17 years upon admission.</p>	<p>Coordinator – Residential Care</p> <p>General Manager DSC</p>	1 <sup>st</sup> March 2010	<p><b>Recommendation met.</b></p> <p>Inspectors viewed the revised purpose and function document found that it was amended and the age on admission was now 13years and over on admission.</p>
2	The HSE should ensure that the monitoring officer provides an annual report as required by the standards.	<p>The Monitoring Officer and former Local Health Manager have met to discuss issues about meeting this standard.</p> <p>The Monitoring Officer has subsequently adopted a new monitoring methodology to meet this standard.</p>	<p>Local Health Manager with lead responsibility for Residential Care</p> <p>Monitoring Officer</p>	1 <sup>st</sup> Jan 2010	<p><b>Recommendation met in part.</b></p> <p>There is now an agreed plan that a written audit will occur in 2010.</p>

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3	The HSE DML should ensure that a care plan for the placement in foster care for one child is given the highest priority.	The KWW Fostering Social Work Team have prioritised finding a suitable fostering placement for this young person.  In the interim a family has been identified who can provide additional supports including weekend placement and participation in family events.	KWW Social Work Team	Ongoing	<b>Recommendation not met.</b> As recommended in three previous inspection reports, given her young age, securing a placement in foster care for one child needs to be given the highest priority. HIQA SSI requires written evidence of progress in this matter within one month of the date of this report.
4	The HSE DML should ensure that an annual plan for access with the young person and his siblings is developed as a matter of urgency.	This young person has left placement in Ivy Cottage and is in receipt of Aftercare support from the Social Work Department.  Access with his siblings is arranged between the young person and his siblings Social Worker.	KWW Social Work Team	Ongoing	<b>Recommendation not met.</b> An annual plan for sibling access for one young person needed to be drawn up, and a copy sent to the inspector as a matter of priority.
5	The HSE DML should ensure that given the vulnerability of one young person, a social worker is assigned to him as a priority.	All resident young people in this centre have an allocated social worker	P.S.W. / S.W.T.L. KWW  Centre Manager  Coordinator – Residential Care	1 <sup>st</sup> February 2010	<b>Recommendation met.</b> The young person concerned is now supported by the principle social worker and aftercare service.

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6	The HSE DML should ensure that a comprehensive after care plan is drawn up as a matter of urgency.	An aftercare plan was developed in this young persons Child in Care Review.	P.S.W. KWW Coordinator – Residential Care  Centre Manager	1 <sup>st</sup> December 2010	<b>Recommendation met.</b> A written aftercare plan on one young person was now in place.
7	The HSE should ensure that centre policy on spiritual needs of young people is further developed.	The Centre Policy on the spiritual needs of resident young people will be further developed.	Coordinator – Residential Care  Centre Manager	30 <sup>th</sup> April 2010	<b>Recommendation met in part.</b> While practice is good, this needs to be written up as a policy.
8	The HSE should ensure that one young person recommences attendance in education or training immediately.	This young person has left placement in Ivy Cottage and is in receipt of an aftercare support from KWW Social Work Department.  The Social Work Team continue to work with this young person to engage in all appropriate services and placements.	KWW Social Work Department	Ongoing	<b>Recommendation met.</b> An educational course has been located for one young person.

Social Services Inspectorate

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9	The HSE should ensure that an educational assessment is completed for one young person as a matter of priority.	An educational assessment in respect of this young person is currently being sourced.	KWW Social Work Department	Ongoing	<b>Recommendation not met.</b> A report had been drafted however, it was incomplete and a more comprehensive assessment is required.
10	The HSE should ensure that the centre obtains the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Upgraded new kitchen.</li> <li>Two new bathrooms and toilet</li> <li>New external safety gate</li> </ul>	Funding has been secured for the new kitchen and bathrooms and plans are being made to have them installed.  Safety Gate has been installed.	Coordinator – Residential Care  Maintenance Officer KWW	Completed by 1 <sup>st</sup> June 2010	<b>Recommendation met.</b>