



# Health Information and Quality Authority

An tÚdarás Um Fhaisnéis  
agus Cáilíocht Sláinte

## **A**

### **Children's Residential Centre**

### **In The**

### **HSE Dublin North East Area**

***FOLLOW UP INSPECTION ID NUMBER: 428***

**Follow-up Inspection Date: 2 November 2010**  
**Publication Date: 10 November 2010**  
**SSI Inspection Period: 12**  
**Centre ID Number: 116**

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## **Introduction**

The Health Information and Quality Authority Social Services Inspectorate (HIQA/SSI) carried out a second announced follow-up inspection (see inspection ID 369) of a community children's residential centre in the HSE Dublin North East Local Health Area under Section 69 (2) of the Child Care Act 1991. The inspection was carried out by Bronagh Gibson (inspector) on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2010. The purpose of the second follow-up inspection was to further assess the level of compliance with recommendations made in two previous inspection reports (see inspection ID 290 and 369) about the physical building. This inspection included an interview with the centre manager and deputy manager, and a review of documents related to child protection, care planning and complaints.

## **Findings**

The centre was located in Dublin's north inner city and provided medium to long-term care for two sibling groups (five young people in total). There were no new admissions, and no young people had been discharged from the centre since the last inspection. Plans to move one young person to another placement were ongoing. A strong education ethos and working closely with families, continued to be central to the work and success to date of the centre. Despite some staff changes, the team provided a stable and nurturing environment for the young people living there.

There had been several complaints made by the young people prior to the inspection and these were found to have been dealt with appropriately. One complaint related to the poor physical condition of the centre. This resulted in a visit to the centre by a senior HSE manager and funding towards some re-decoration of the centre followed. Despite this, the centre required considerable attention, and this is dealt with later in the report.

There were two child protection notifications made in relation to two young people (separate incidents) prior to the inspection. The social work departments involved had responded to these notifications, and both were being dealt with by the young people's social workers.

The HSE monitoring officer had reported on the centre in September 2010 and the majority of the recommendations in the report had been or were being addressed by the centre manager and/or the HSE DNELHA at the time of the inspection.

The physical condition of certain areas of the house continued to be of concern to the inspector. The carpets had been replaced throughout the house and the staff team had painted all of the living rooms and young people's bed rooms. Despite the great efforts of the staff team, the young people's bathroom(s) and the main kitchen continued to be of a very poor standard. The kitchen was dated, with cracked worktop surfaces, and wall tiles and flooring that required replacing immediately. Overall, the kitchen was found to be of such a poor standard that it may be an unhygienic environment for the preparation and serving of food to the young people. The main bathroom required re-tiling and re-flooring immediately. The side panel of the bath (that was the only bath for all of the young people living in the centre), was painted wood, and required replacing also. Similar to the kitchen, the bathroom was to a very poor standard and the lack of funding from the HSE to make the required changes was a source of great disappointment to the young people.

## **Recommendation:**

1. The HSE DNELHA should ensure all of the outstanding recommendations made in the previous HIQA/SSI inspection reports and the HSE monitoring officer's report (September 2010) are implemented, paying particular attention to the physical condition of the centre. The building works should be addressed as a matter of priority.