



Health Information and Quality Authority

An tÚdarás Um Fhaisnéis
agus Cáilíocht Sláinte

A

Children's Residential Centre in the HSE South Area

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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 377) of a community children's residential centre in the HSE South Area (SA) under Section 69 (2) of the Child Care Act 1991. The inspection was carried out by Bronagh Gibson (inspector) on 18 November 2010. The purpose of a second follow-up inspection was to further assess the level of compliance with two recommendations made in two previous inspection reports (see inspection ID 314 and 377) about care planning and the physical building. This inspection included an interview with the acting centre manager, sight of the centre register and documents related to the premises and building and a view of the premises.

Findings

There were three young people living in the centre at the time of the inspection visit. A place had been offered to another young person and the acting centre manager was awaiting their admission. The centre had made one child protection notification in relation to one young person since the last inspection. This was being investigated by the social work department at the time of the inspection. All of the young people had a school placement and were doing well in their education. The inspector found that there were two discharges from and three admissions to the centre since the last inspection. One discharge, although planned with the social work department, was made in an emergency situation. This placement was being reviewed by the staff team.

Recommendation number four (see inspection report ID number 377) remained unmet and the inspector found that two of the young people living in the centre at the time of the inspection had a high level of need. One of the young people was approaching his/her 18th birthday. The aftercare plan for this young person was not fully established and strategy meetings had been arranged to address the concerns about this young person. The inspector recommends that adequate aftercare provisions are made for this young person and that the HSE monitoring officer monitors and reports to the HSE SA on this young person's care, placement and aftercare plans. Another young person was 16 years old and although aftercare planning had begun, the availability of services for him/her after their discharge from the centre was unclear. Therefore, the inspector recommends that the HSE monitoring officer monitors and reports to the HSE SA on the level of aftercare planning for another young person who is 16 years of age and has a high level of need.

The centre continued to operate from the same premises and all of the concerns highlighted in previous inspection reports remained. The centre shared the grounds and building with another agency that had moved out prior to the inspection. The inspector found that since that move, the building had fallen into further disrepair. There were several efforts made by the HSE SA to secure new premises for the centre prior to the inspection, but these were unsuccessful. The HSE SA did not have a written plan for the centre and had not submitted this plan to the inspectorate. Therefore, recommendation number five (see inspection report ID number 377) continued to be unmet and still stands.

Recommendations

1. The HSE SA should ensure that:
 - adequate aftercare provisions are made regarding one young person who is nearly 18 years of age
 - the HSE monitoring officer monitors and reports to the HSE SA on this young person's care, placement and aftercare plans
 - the HSE monitoring officer monitors and reports to the HSE SA on the level of aftercare planning for another young person who is 16 years of age and has a high level of need.
2. The HSE SA should ensure that as a matter of urgency, a new premises is found for the centre and a strategic plan for the centre is developed that is:
 - put in writing
 - explained to the young people, their families and social work departments
 - forwarded to the Inspectorate four weeks from date of publication of this report
 - up-dated monthly and progress reported to the Inspectorate on a monthly basis (in writing).