

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by the Interim Executive Director of Social Work and Health and the Executive Director of Educational Services

Education and Life-Long Learning Committee: 10 March 2010

Subject: Care Commission Inspection Report – Fostering Services

1. Purpose

- 1.1** This report summarises the last inspection report for the Council's Fostering Service. The inspection was carried out on 7 October 2009.

2. Background

- 2.1** The Care Commission inspection normally takes place once a year for Fostering Services. They are all announced visits. The focus of the inspection is on an identified group of National Care Standards.

- 2.2** This inspection was deemed low intensity because, as a result of previous inspections, the care commission officer was satisfied that the service was working hard to provide consistently high standards of care.

- 2.3** During the inspection the officer gathered evidence from a number of sources including discussion with people using the service - foster carers and young people - as well as reading a range of policies, procedures and other documentation.

- 2.4** Against individual quality themes the service is graded as follows:-

Level 6	-	Excellent	(excellent or outstanding)
Level 5	-	Very Good	(major strengths)
Level 4	-	Good	(important strengths with some areas for improvement)
Level 3	-	Adequate	(strengths just outweigh weaknesses)
Level 2	-	Weak	(important weaknesses)
Level 1	-	Unsatisfactory	(major weaknesses)

- 2.5** Any serious shortcomings in a service may result in a requirement being imposed on a service. A requirement is a statement setting out an enforceable action required in order to comply with current legislation. A recommendation is a

statement setting out proposed actions to be taken by a service which is aimed at improving the quality of the service.

3. Main Issues

3.1 Based on the findings of this inspection the Fostering Service was awarded the following grades:

Quality of Care and Support	(4 – Good)
Quality of Staffing	(4 – Good)
Quality of Management and Leadership	(4 – Good)

3.2 There were no requirements and 7 recommendations.

3.3 The Care Commission officer commented on what the service did well which was undertaking thorough assessments of foster carers with ongoing support carried out by the Link Workers. Foster Carers provided quality care for children and young people. Training for foster carers was well structured.

3.4 The officer identified where the service could do better which was by improving administrative support to the team. Staff had difficulty finalising written procedures due to pressure of work.

3.5 The officer concluded that the service was well established with a fairly consistent group of staff, managers and carers. Children seen during this inspection and previous inspections were receiving a high quality of care from foster carers committed to meeting their needs.

4. Personnel Issues

4.1 The administrative issue identified in this inspection has been partially solved through redeployment.

4.2 The issue of pressure of work for the team is the subject of another report going to this committee.

5. Financial Implications

5.1 Any issues identified in this report can be met within the current budget.

6. Risk Analysis

6.1 There were no requirements arising from this inspection and an action plan has been submitted in response to the recommendations.

7. Equalities Impact

- 7.1** No significant issues were identified in a screening for potential equality impact of these measures.

8. Conclusions and Recommendations

- 8.1** Committee is asked to note the positive content of the Fostering Service Inspection Report.

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Appendix: Action Plan

Background Papers: None

Wards Affected: All