

## **West Dunbartonshire Council**

### **Report by the Executive Director of Educational Services**

**Education and Lifelong Learning Committee: 15 December 2010**

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**Subject: Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education: Report on  
Kilbowie Early Education and Childcare Centre**

#### **1. Purpose**

- 1.1** To inform Members of the inspection of Kilbowie Early Education and Childcare Centre by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIE) and the subsequent report published by HMIE on 24 November 2010.

#### **2. Background**

- 2.1** Kilbowie Early Education and Childcare Centre was inspected in October 2010. The centre was inspected by HMIE as part of the integrated inspection programme on behalf of HMIE and the Care Commission. Inspectors focussed on the quality of children's experiences and outcomes, and the success of the centre in improving the quality of education. Inspectors reported six-point scale evaluations of five quality indicators.
- 2.2** The inspection focussed on approaches to improvement through self-evaluation. At the start of the inspection, the head of centre had the opportunity to demonstrate the impact of the centre's self-evaluation in improving its work, along with key supporting evidence particularly in raising achievement. The inspector was interested in how the centre identified its future priorities and direction, founded on how accurately and well it knew itself at the point of inspection. A discussion with the head of centre and key members of staff about self-evaluation, evidence and improvement took place early in the inspection, with the purpose of helping the inspector focus on appropriate activities and consider priorities for the inspection and the necessary extent of the inspection. Inspection activities also included observation of early literacy and early numeracy through play, and in response to the very thorough self-evaluation, additional learning trails were agreed i.e. outdoor learning, technology and documentation of learning (projects). The inspector also looked at broader curricular areas when observing learning and teaching. Responses to questionnaires issued to all parents and staff were analysed. The inspection report is available at <http://www.hmie.gov.uk/> and a copy is attached as an appendix.

#### **3. Main Issues**

- 3.1** Members will note that HM Inspector identified key strengths within the centre, in particular:
- Confident, enthusiastic and motivated children who enjoy high quality learning experiences.

- Children's progress in their learning and development.
- The highly motivated and enthusiastic staff team who work well together to improve learning and teaching.
- Very effective leadership for learning.

**3.2** Members will note that in relation to the five indicators of quality two were excellent and three were very good.

**3.3** Overall, the inspector found that almost all children at Kilbowie Early Education and Childcare Centre were making excellent progress in their learning. Staff had organised a stimulating environment which was firmly based around children's interests. Staff were confident and skilful in using national guidance to embed *Curriculum for Excellence* in planning for children's learning. Literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing were embedded across the curriculum. The inspector found that children, parents and staff had a great deal of pride in their centre. Self-evaluation activities were very well developed and focussed on achieving best practice. The nursery had formed partnerships with a range of agencies to help improve children's learning. Staff and children regularly contributed ideas about the nursery and have helped to establish priorities for improvement. Staff implemented the improvement plan priorities extremely well. Staff were confident in their abilities, and were well supported by the head of centre; as a result children were making excellent progress.

**3.4** The following area for improvement was agreed with the centre and the education authority:

- The centre should continue to maintain the high quality of provision and, through the improvement planning process, make further developments to aspects of the work of the centre.

#### **4. People Implications**

**4.1** This report has no implications for personnel.

#### **5. Financial Implications**

**5.1** The centre's budget will finance Action Plan developments.

#### **6. Risk Analysis**

**6.1** An Action Plan will be prepared to take forward the recommendation made in this report.

#### **7. Equalities Impact**

**7.1** Screening for equalities impact indicates that there are no issues.

#### **8. Conclusions and Recommendations**

**8.1** HM Inspectors will make no further visits in connection with this inspection. The centre and the education authority will inform parents about the centre's progress in improving the quality of education.

**8.2** The committee is invited:

- (a) to note the contents of this report; and
- (b) to congratulate the staff, parents and children of Kilbowie Early Education and Childcare Centre, for their achievements as recognised by HMIE in the report published on 24 November 2010.

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<b>Appendix:</b>	Copy of HMIE Report on Kilbowie Early Education and Childcare Centre
<b>Wards Affected:</b>	Ward 5