



ORKNEY
ISLANDS COUNCIL

Item: 11

Education, Leisure and Housing Committee: 10 September 2025.

Care Inspectorate – Westray Junior High School Nursery.

Report by Director of Education, Communities and Housing.

1. Overview

- 1.1. On 23 April 2025, the Care Inspectorate undertook an unannounced inspection of Westray Junior High Nursery. They considered a range of information, including reviewing documentation, speaking to parents, staff and children, as well as observing practice.
- 1.2. The Care Inspectorate identified significant strengths in the settings' work, including:
 - Children experienced warm, caring and nurturing approaches to support their overall wellbeing.
 - Children had fun and were actively involved in leading their own play and learning experiences.
 - Children accessed an environment that was warm and welcoming.
 - Snack and lunch time was a positive, relaxing and sociable time for children.
 - The staff and leadership team had a clear focus on improving outcomes for children and their families.
 - There were clear procedures in place to manage lone working arrangements, and staff were confident in implementing these.
- 1.3. The following area for improvement was identified:
 - Robust quality assurance processes needed to be developed around safeguarding procedures.
- 1.4. The four key quality indicators from the Care Inspectorate Quality Framework were graded as follows:
 - How good is our play care and learning? – Very Good.
 - How good is our setting? – Very Good.
 - How good is our leadership? – Adequate.

- How good is our staff team? – Very Good.
- 1.5. Overall the report was very positive and the setting will continue to develop practice and address any improvements.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. It is recommended that members of the Committee:
- i. Note the report in respect of Westray Junior High School Nursery, attached at Appendix 1 to this report, issued by the Care Inspectorate in April 2025.

For Further Information please contact:

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Implications of Report

1. **Financial** - Not applicable.
2. **Legal** - Not applicable.
3. **Corporate Governance** - Not applicable.
4. **Human Resources** - Not applicable.
5. **Equalities** – An Equalities Impact Assessment is not required for performance reporting.
6. **Island Communities Impact** – An Island Communities Impact Assessment is not required for performance reporting.
7. **Links to Council Plan:** The proposals in this report support and contribute to improved outcomes for communities as outlined in the following Council Plan strategic priorities:
 - ☒ Growing our economy.
 - ☒ Strengthening our Communities.
 - ☐ Developing our Infrastructure.
 - ☐ Transforming our Council.
8. **Links to Local Outcomes Improvement Plan:** The proposals in this report support and contribute to improved outcomes for communities as outlined in the following Local Outcomes Improvement Plan priorities:
 - ☒ Cost of Living.
 - ☒ Sustainable Development.
 - ☒ Local Equality.
 - ☐ Improving Population Health.
9. **Environmental and Climate Risk** - Not applicable.
10. **Risk** - Not applicable.

- 11. Procurement** - Not applicable.
- 12. Health and Safety** - Not applicable.
- 13. Property and Assets** - Not applicable.
- 14. Information Technology** - Not applicable.
- 15. Cost of Living** - Not applicable.

List of Background Papers

None

Appendix

Appendix 1 – Inspection report