

REPORT TO: Education Committee

MEETING DATE: 24 September 2013

BY: Depute Chief Executive (Resources and People Services)

SUBJECT: Inspection of Olivebank Children and Family Centre by Education Scotland

1 PURPOSE

1.1 To report to Committee on the report by Education Scotland on the inspection of Olivebank Children and Family Centre by Education Scotland.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 The Committee is asked to:-

- (i) Note the content of the Education Scotland report (Appendix 1).
- (ii) Note that as a result of the very good quality of education provided by the Centre, Education Scotland will make no further visits to the school in connection with the recommendations of the report.
- (iii) Congratulate the Centre Coordinator and staff on the contents of the report.

3 BACKGROUND

3.1 Olivebank Children and Family Centre was inspected in May 2013 by Education Scotland and a report was published in July 2013.

3.2 The report noted that the particular strengths of the centre were:

- The progress children make while in the centre.
- The leadership shown by the Centre Coordinator.
- The very supportive and constructive relationships formed with children and their families.

- The outstanding teamwork amongst staff and the centre's partnership work with other professionals.
- The use of programmes and the variety of group work developed to provide a range of support to children and their families.

3.3 Education Scotland agreed the following areas for further improvement with the school and education authority:

- Continue to develop learning in both rooms using national guidance appropriately.
- Continue to develop the involvement of parents and carers in improving the centre's provision and practice.

4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 None

5 EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT

5.1 This report is not applicable to the well being of equalities groups and an Equalities Impact Assessment is not required.

6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Financial - None

6.2 Personnel - None

6.3 Other - None

7 BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 The inspection of Olivebank Children and Family Centre (Appendix 1)

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DATE	12 August 2013

9 July 2013

Dear Parent/Carer

**Olivebank Child and Family Centre
East Lothian Council**

Recently, as you may know, I visited and inspected your child's pre-school centre. During my visit, I talked to parents and children and I worked closely with the centre coordinator and staff. I wanted to find out how well children are learning and achieving and how well the pre-school centre supports children to do their best. The centre coordinator shared with me the pre-school centre's successes and priorities for improvement. I looked at some particular aspects of the pre-school centre's recent work, including how it promotes health and wellbeing and also how well it is using the outdoors for learning. I also looked at how well the centre uses different ways to make parents and carers feel fully involved in supporting their children. As a result, I was able to find out how good the pre-school centre is at improving children's education.

How well do children learn and achieve?

Olivebank Child and Family Centre provides an outstanding service for all its children and families. Children are learning and achieving very well. The centre is a nurturing experience for everyone. This is because the very skilled and knowledgeable staff build very good relationships with the children and their families. Children, with appropriate support from staff, are learning to take part in learning and to make decisions about their learning. They often put examples of this learning into their Learning Stories. These folders provide a very good way of showing what children know and what they might learn next. Children also enjoy using floorbooks to talk about their learning and to make decisions about their learning. These floorbooks would be a good tool to use more in both rooms to encourage children to be more involved in planning their learning.

Children aged three to five years are making very good progress developing their early language and literacy, mathematics and numeracy skills. They are also progressing very well with developing their understanding of how they can live healthy lives. Many children have enjoyed learning about keeping healthy with their families in groups or within specific projects. Children listen well and are becoming skilled in taking turns in a conversation. They enjoy listening to stories in their library area, often related to something they have been discussing. Older children are beginning to use different implements inside and outside to try to write. Children are learning to count and order numbers using many of the natural objects collected in

buckets in the outdoor area. They enjoy filling and emptying lots of different containers both in the indoor water tray and the outdoor sandpit. The children learn especially well in their very well-designed and imaginatively laid out outdoor area. It is often in the outdoor area where children paint, exercise, play games together or act out imaginary roles.

How well does the pre-school centre support children to develop and learn?

The centre provides outstanding support to every child to develop and learn. Staff often have to provide families with the same level of support and do so sensitively, professionally and with great skill. In order to support children and their families, the centre builds and uses partnerships with other agencies and groups very effectively. The centre's coordinator and staff are very highly regarded by other professionals for their work and what they achieve. Many staff have taken on additional training in particular work to then provide the centre with different new ways to support children and their families. Some of these, such as video interaction guidance, are helping very well to promote positive parenting and support parents in developing these skills. Children's learning is very well-planned using appropriate national guidance in each of the rooms. Staff are confident and work very well together whether planning using the *Pre-birth to Three* framework or Curriculum for Excellence. Throughout the centre, children enjoy a broad and balanced set of curriculum experiences. Both children and their families benefit from the centre's careful planning with all its partners when joining the centre, moving from room to room or moving from the centre to another nursery or primary class.

How well does the pre-school centre improve the quality of its work?

The centre knows what it does well and what it needs to do to get even better. The leadership shown by the centre coordinator is inspiring and this has led the staff to have very high expectations of what they do as individuals and as part of the centre team. The centre management team has built a service which is focused on positively changing lives and it understands that to do so, the centre has to work to a very high standard all the time. This they have achieved and shared with all staff. The centre should now work along with its many partners to maintain and go beyond such high standards for its current families and those who will join in the future. In doing so, the centre should continue to seek new ways to encourage parents and carers to be more involved in how they can join in with improving their centre.

Our inspection of your pre-school centre found the following key strengths.

- The progress children make while in the centre.
- The leadership shown by the centre coordinator.
- The very supportive and constructive relationships formed with children and their families.
- The outstanding teamwork amongst staff and the centre's partnership work with other professionals.
- The use of programmes and the variety of group work developed to provide a range of support to children and their families.

I discussed with staff and the education authority how they might continue to improve the pre-school centre. This is what I agreed with them.

- Continue to develop learning in both rooms using national guidance appropriately.
- Continue to develop the involvement of parents and carers in improving the centre's provision and practice.

What happens at the end of the inspection?

We are very satisfied with the overall high quality of provision. We are very confident that the pre-school centre self-evaluation processes are leading to improvements. As a result, we will make no further evaluative visits in connection with this inspection. During the inspection, we identified aspects of innovative practice which we would like to explore further in order to share the practice with others. As a result we will work with Olivebank Child and Family Centre and East Lothian Council in order to record and share more widely the innovative practice. We will ask the centre, in discussion with the local authority, to let parents know the outcome of the innovative practice visit(s).

Alasdair Eadie
HM Inspector

Additional inspection evidence, such as details of the quality indicator evaluations, for your school can be found on the Education Scotland website at <http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/inspectionandreview/reports/school/eyc/OlivebankChildrenandFamilyCentreMusselburghEastLothian.asp>.

If you would like to receive this report in a different format, for example, in a translation please contact the administration team on the above telephone number.

If you want to give us feedback or make a complaint about our work, please contact us by telephone on 0141 282 5000, or e-mail: complaints@educationscotland.gsi.gov.uk or write to us addressing your letter to the Complaints Manager, Denholm House, Almondvale Business Park, Livingston EH54 6GA.

Quality indicators help pre-school centres, education authorities and inspectors to judge what is good and what needs to be improved in the work of the pre-school centre. You can find these quality indicators in the publication *Child at the Centre(2)*¹. Following our inspection of each pre-school centre, the Scottish Government gathers evaluations of three important quality indicators to keep track of how well all Scottish pre-school centres are doing.

Here are the evaluations for **Olivebank Child and Family Centre**

Improvements in performance	very good
Children's experiences	very good
Meeting learning needs	excellent

We also evaluated the following aspects of the work of the pre-school centre

The curriculum	very good
Improvement through self-evaluation	excellent

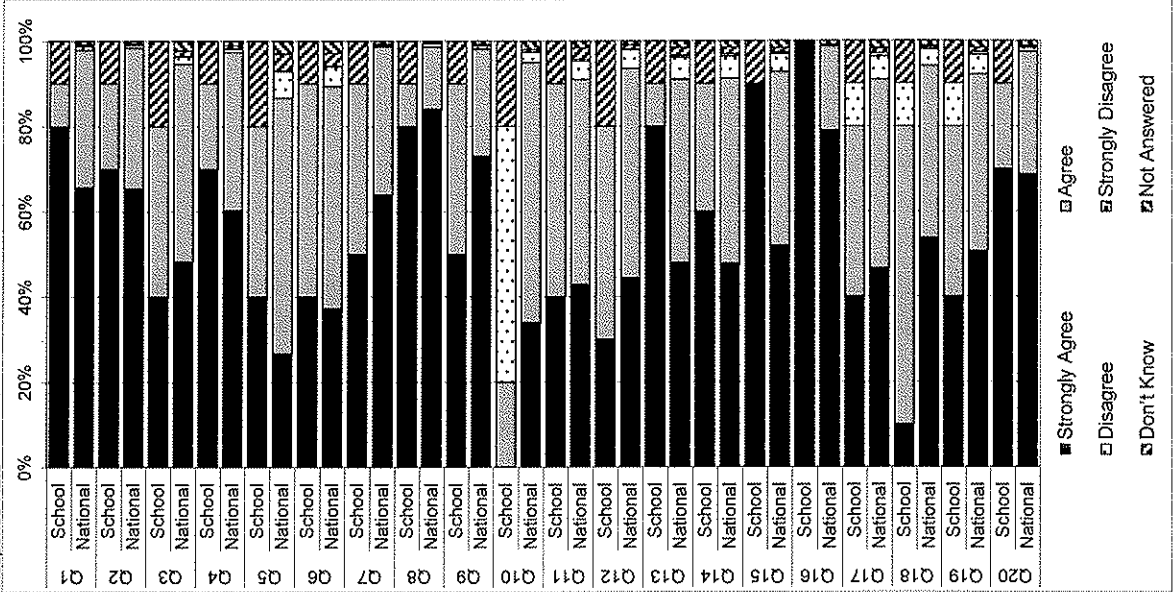
A copy of the full letter is available on the Education Scotland website at <http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/inspectionandreview/reports/school/eyc/OlivebankChildrenandFamilyCentreMusselburghEastLothian.asp>

¹ *The Child at the Centre, Self-Evaluation in the early years*, HM Inspectorate of Education, 2007, : http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/inspectionandreview/Images/catcseey_tcm4-712692.pdf

A sample of parents, children and young people, and all members of staff were invited to give their views of the school using a pre-inspection questionnaire. Their views informed the inspection process, including the nature of discussions in a number of meetings. Strengths and issues identified were explored by the inspection team, and the findings are included in the inspection report. The following information gives the statistical detail from those that returned questionnaires.

Nursery Staff Questionnaire Summary

Centre Name Olivebank Child and Family Centre
 SEED Number 5505313
 Quest. Issued 13
 Quest. Input 10
 Response Rate 77%



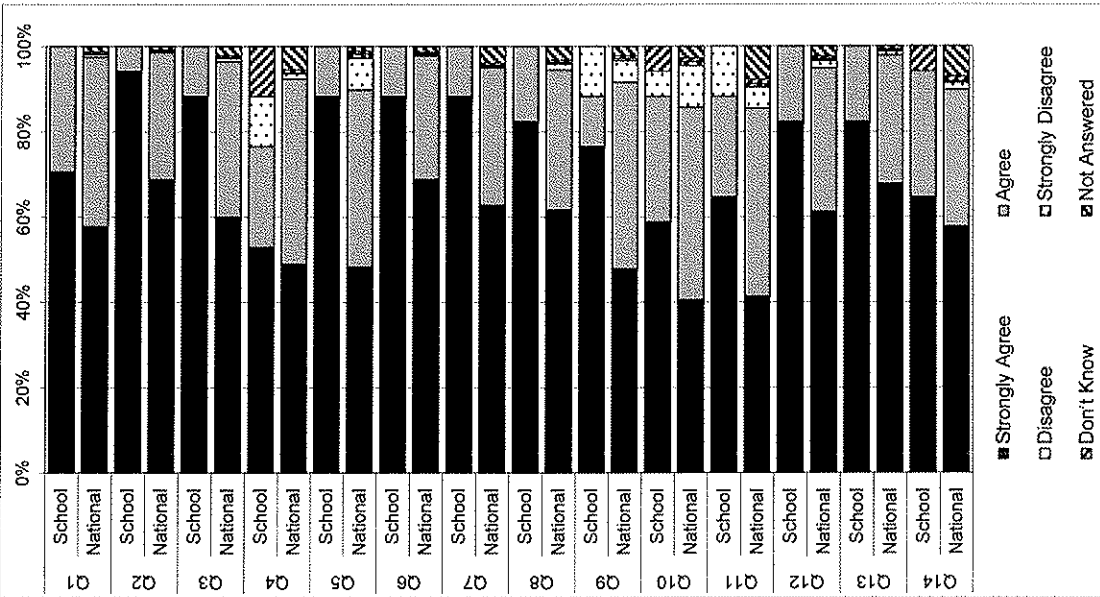
Question	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know	Not Answered	Strongly Agree & Disagree	Strongly Disagree & Agree
Q1	80%	10%	0%	0%	10%	0%	90%	0%
Q2	70%	20%	0%	0%	10%	0%	90%	0%
Q3	40%	20%	0%	0%	20%	0%	80%	0%
Q4	70%	20%	0%	0%	10%	0%	90%	0%
Q5	40%	40%	0%	0%	20%	0%	80%	0%
Q6	50%	40%	0%	0%	10%	0%	90%	0%
Q7	50%	40%	0%	0%	10%	0%	90%	0%
Q8	80%	10%	0%	0%	10%	0%	90%	0%
Q9	50%	40%	0%	0%	10%	0%	90%	0%
Q10	0%	20%	60%	0%	20%	0%	20%	60%
Q11	40%	50%	0%	0%	10%	0%	90%	0%
Q12	30%	50%	0%	0%	20%	0%	80%	0%
Q13	80%	10%	0%	0%	10%	0%	90%	0%
Q14	60%	30%	0%	0%	10%	0%	90%	0%
Q15	90%	0%	0%	0%	10%	0%	90%	0%
Q16	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%
Q17	40%	40%	10%	0%	10%	0%	80%	10%
Q18	10%	70%	10%	0%	10%	0%	80%	10%
Q19	40%	40%	10%	0%	10%	0%	80%	10%
Q20	70%	20%	0%	0%	10%	0%	90%	0%

Note: Will not always sum to 100% due to rounding

DISCLOSURE CONTROL APPLIED

Nursery Parent Questionnaire Summary

Centre Name Olivebank Child and Family Centre
 SEED Number 5505313
 Quest. Issued 52
 Quest. Input 17
 Response Rate 33%



Note: Will not always sum to 100% due to rounding

Question	Strongly Agree	Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know	Not Answered	Strongly Agree & Disagree
Q1	71%	29%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Q2	94%	6%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Q3	88%	12%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Q4	53%	24%	12%	0%	12%	0%	12%
Q5	88%	12%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Q6	88%	12%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Q7	88%	12%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Q8	82%	18%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Q9	76%	12%	0%	0%	0%	0%	12%
Q10	59%	29%	6%	0%	6%	0%	6%
Q11	65%	24%	12%	0%	0%	0%	12%
Q12	82%	18%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Q13	82%	18%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Q14	65%	29%	0%	0%	6%	0%	0%

