

## **Item: 12**

**Education, Leisure and Housing Committee: 4 June 2025.**

**Care Inspectorate – Willow Tree Nursery**

**Report by Director of Education, Communities and Housing.**

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### **1. Overview**

- 1.1. On 4 and 5 March 2025, the Care Inspectorate undertook an unannounced inspection of Willow Tree Nursery. As part of the inspection, the Care Inspector spoke to children, parents, practitioners and the manager. They spent time in the playrooms and reviewed documents.
- 1.2. The Care Inspectorate identified strengths in the setting's work, including:
  - Children were supported with kindness and nurturing approaches that supported their overall wellbeing.
  - Children participated in a variety of developmentally appropriate play experiences which stimulated their natural curiosity, learning and creativity
  - Children and families benefited from a committed manager and staff team
  - The setting used effective personal planning approaches and worked in collaboration with parents and children received well planned care that met their individual needs.
  - Staff interactions were warm and sensitive and staff used a range of approaches to support communication.
  - Children's play and learning was enhanced by strong connections to the local community.
  - The staff had worked hard to make sure the physical environment met children's needs.
  - Self-evaluation approaches were evolving and were supporting staff to reflect well together so that children benefited from a service that continued to improved.
- 1.3. The following area for improvement was identified:
  - Staff deployment did not always consistently meet children's needs. Staff were asked to consider how they positioned themselves to enhance supervision and ensure that they noticed interaction cues.

- 1.4. The four key quality indicators from the Care Inspectorate Quality Framework were evaluated as follows:
- How good is our care play and learning? Good.
  - How good is our setting? – Good.
  - How good is our leadership? – Good.
  - How good is our staff team? – Adequate.
- 1.5. The inspection evaluations showed that there has been significant improvement since the last inspection, where the setting had 3 adequate grades and one good grade. All four recommendations made at the previous inspection had been met.
- 1.6. At inspection, one further area for improvement was identified which focussed on staff deployment. The setting has since reviewed staff processes and deployment and is putting a monitoring process in place.

## 2. Recommendations

- 2.1. It is recommended that members of the Committee:
- i. Note the report published the Care Inspectorate in respect of Willow Tree Nursery, attached as Appendix 1 to this report.

### **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** – Equality Impact Assessment is not required for performance reporting.
6. **Island Communities Impact** – Equality 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