

**NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND EDUCATION CABINET
BOARD**

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES, HEALTH
AND HOUSING – N. JARMAN**

3 DECEMBER 2015

SECTION B – MATTER FOR INFORMATION

WARD(S) AFFECTED: ALL

HILLSIDE SECURE CHILDREN'S HOME – ESTYN INSPECTION

Purpose of the Report:

To report to Members the ESTYN Inspection Report (2015) for Hillside Secure Children's Home.

Background:

ESTYN are required to undertake annual inspections of Hillside under the provision of the Care Standards Act 2000 and associated regulations.

The primary focus of the Report is to comment on the quality of Education provided to the children and young people.

The Report reflects on the broad areas identified within the National Minimum Standards for children's Homes (2002) and the Children's Homes Regulations (2002).

The Estyn Report in 2013-4 identified many shortfalls within the education provision. CSSIW invited Estyn Inspectors to report annually on the education provision.

The Inspection was to measure the progress made against recommendations in the Estyn December 2013 Inspection

Report and a follow up report made in July 2014. Owing to changes in leadership and management personnel within the organisation and changes to the structure of the client group to which the centre delivers services.

The Inspection took place between 21ST September and 24th September 2015.

The format and length of the Inspection focussed on the previous reports recommendations and used these as a benchmark to evidence progress within the department.

Summary of Report Findings:

1. Recommendation 1: In light of the increased capacity, review the overall management of the centre to ensure that education is prioritised – Fully Addressed

- The local authority, Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council, continues to support the centre well. It provides useful guidance and challenge to ensure that the centre makes effective progress towards its strategic aims and the objectives in its post inspection action plan. The Director of Social Services, Health and Housing presents reports to the local authority's Scrutiny Committee to ensure that Elected Members are well informed of the centre's progress.
- The Headteacher of Cefn Saeson Comprehensive School (CSCS) now acts as an Executive at Hillside. This has improved the centre's ability to respond to management challenges within the provision by accessing a broader range of skills.
- A Recovery Board remains in place, following the Inspection of 2013, to hold the centre to account for the education provision offered to children and young people.
- Staff motivation has continued to improve and they make a good contribution to the development of the centre.
- Centre staff has linked well with comprehensive school staff to develop their skills and teaching practices.

- Education and care staff attend weekly meetings to review the progress of each learner. These meetings improve the joint working within the centre to ensure that learners make the best progress possible. However, staff do not update learners'

Recommendation 2: Improve the collection and analysis of data in education to help improve outcomes for all learners - This recommendation has been partly addressed.

- The centre has now identified an appropriate management information system, but is yet to finalise its purchase.
- The centre records learners' reading and writing abilities clearly. Teaching staff use an online initial assessment tool to measure new learners' literacy and numeracy skills. Several care workers use this package to support learners to improve their literacy and numeracy through their homework. However, the centre has not developed the use of the software package to help learners set short-term improvement targets.

Recommendation 3: Raise teaching in all lessons to a good standard. - This recommendation has been largely addressed

- Teaching staff have useful opportunities to attend a range of training, including on how to support learners with dyslexia and on improving self-assessment. There are clear plans in place for further appropriate staff development opportunities.
- Teachers took part in peer observations last year and these provided useful opportunities for staff to share best practice.

- In most of the lessons observed by Inspectors, teaching has many strengths. All teachers have a very reliable and professional relationship with the learners. Teachers have a clear focus on literacy and numeracy in lessons and make effective use of opportunities to develop learners' skills. In the best lessons, teachers engage the learners well in topics that stimulate their interest.
- Behaviour in lessons is generally of a good standard and staff apply behaviour rules consistently. This helps most learners to improve their behaviour in lessons.

Recommendation 4: Increase the availability of classroom-based learning support to ensure that all children's additional needs are met appropriately. This recommendation has been largely addressed

- The number of learning support assistants has increased. There are currently four learning support assistants, including one higher level teaching assistant (HLTA).
- Overall, learning support staff work well alongside the teachers to provide specific, tailored support for individuals.
- Learning support staff and teachers liaise well to discuss the needs of learners and the effectiveness of support strategies.
- Care staff now play an effective role in actively supporting all classroom-based learning.

Recommendation 5: Increase the use of ICT and other resources such as whiteboards to support learning. This recommendation has been fully addressed.

- Teachers use the centre's interactive technology well to provide learners with stimulating visual resources.
- Learners enjoy the wide variety of video clips and animated displays. In the best lessons, teachers use the technology with confidence and encourage learners to engage with interactive facilities.
- In most classes, learners use the in-class computers and tablet computers well to carry out activities such as research, retrieval and storage of cooking recipes and textile and jewellery design.

Recommendation 6: To formalise the partnership with the local authority School Improvement Service to help support improvements to teaching and learning. This recommendation has been fully addressed.

- A challenge adviser from the Regional School Improvement Service continues to support the centre. Other findings that relate to this recommendation are included under Recommendation 1.

Supplementary Recommendations

The Inspectors made some supplementary recommendations in order to support continued improvement of the education provided for children and young people. In order that the centre continues to improve, leaders and managers should:

- strengthen the rigour of performance management to improve the individual development planning and targeting of training for all staff, including teaching assistants;
- review how care staff who work with learners on education activities can improve or gain recognition for their education support skills;
- further improve the use of the strategic alliance with CSCS to increase the centre's ability to respond to staffing challenges;
- develop a literacy and numeracy strategy that helps ensure that all learners have clear targets for improving their literacy and numeracy; and
- fully embed management information systems to inform strategic planning.

Appendices

ESTYN Inspection Report (2015) for Hillside Secure Children's Home.

Background Papers

None

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