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<b>Report To:</b>	<b>Education and Communities Committee</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>13 June 2017</b>
<b>Report By:</b>	<b>Corporate Director Education, Communities and Organisational Development</b>	<b>Report No:</b>	<b>EDUCOM/37/17/LW</b>
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<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Care Inspections of Early Learning and Childcare Establishments (April 2016 – March 2017)</b>		

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## **1.0 PURPOSE**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform Committee of the quality of Inverclyde Council's Early Learning and Childcare establishments as evidenced by Care Inspectorate inspections.

## **2.0 SUMMARY**

- 2.1 The Care Inspectorate inspect services to ensure appropriate standards of care are provided.
- 2.2 Grades on a scale of 1 to 6 are awarded at inspection in the areas of quality of care and support, environment, staffing and management and leadership.
- 2.3 The report provides details of grades awarded to services, highlights areas of best practice and areas of development during the period April 2016 – March 2017.
- 2.4 Inverclyde Council's early learning and childcare establishments are providing a high quality of care.

## **3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Committee notes the content of this report.

**Wilma Bain**  
**Corporate Director**  
**Education, Communities & Organisational Development**

## 4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The Care Inspectorate regulates and inspects care services in Scotland to ensure that they meet the correct standards.
- 4.2 At inspection, services are awarded grades for the quality of care and support, environment, staffing and management and leadership.

Each area is assessed on a scale from 1 to 6, where 1 is unsatisfactory and 6 is excellent.

Grade	Assessment
1	Unsatisfactory
2	Weak
3	Adequate
4	Good
5	Very good
6	Excellent

- 4.3 The frequency of inspections varies dependent on the type of service and the grades awarded at previous inspection. Services with children aged 3 to 5 years with good or above grades are inspected every 3 years. Services with children aged 0 – 3 years with good grades are inspected every 2 years. Services with unsatisfactory, weak or adequate grades are inspected annually.
- 4.4 Inspections are unannounced with a maximum of 2 inspectors present. Inspections are usually completed in 1 day but more complex services may be inspected over 2 days.
- 4.5 Some services are jointly inspected by HMle and Care Inspectorate.

## 5.0 LOCAL INSPECTION OUTCOMES

- 5.1 Current grades awarded to Inverclyde Council's early learning and childcare establishments are:

Establishment	Quality of			
	Care and Support	Environment	Staffing	Management and Leadership
Unsatisfactory	0	0	0	0
Weak	0	0	0	0
Adequate	0	0	0	0
Good	7	8	8	7
Very Good	12	12	11	12
Excellent	1	0	1	1

- 5.2 A comparison with inspection outcomes for the previous inspection year identifies that:
- 10 establishments have improved grades
  - 6 establishments have unchanged grades;(all with very good grades)
  - 3 establishments have lower grades
  - 1 establishment is newly registered

## 6.0 AREAS OF STRENGTH

- 6.1 Heads of Establishments recognise the importance of providing high quality care for Inverclyde's children and families. This consistent focus on improving practice results in improved grades being awarded.

- 6.2 Almost all inspection outcomes in Inverclyde are well above the national performance. The number of very good grades awarded is particularly strong. Inverclyde Council establishments have no grades recorded at unsatisfactory, weak or adequate.
- 6.3 There is a clear recognition of the impact of the investment in the Early Years estate. This continued investment in this is recognised by the Care Inspectorate and reflected in inspection reports.
- 6.4 Inverclyde Council's commitment to workforce development is recognised in many inspection reports which comment on the professional, trained and motivated workforce. Many staff across the Authority have been supported to undertake qualifications which is positively impacting on practice.
- 6.5 The wide range of parental engagement is commended across all establishments. This includes parents being engaged in their children's learning and in a wide range of family support activities.

## 7.0 SUPPORT AND CHALLENGE

- 7.1 Developing practice in line with Care Inspectorate legislation remains a high priority. It is a standing item on the Early Years Head of Establishment meeting and is a constant feature of professional dialogue within establishments.
- 7.2 Annual analysis of Care Inspectorate data is undertaken by the Quality Improvement team. Areas for focused attention are identified. In the last inspection year the areas for focused attention were:
- To improve grades in nursery classes - most nursery classes have been awarded higher grades; however this will remain an area of focused attention next year as 2 nursery classes have been awarded lower grades.
  - To continue to improve grades across the service. This has resulted in 10 establishments being awarded higher grades
- 7.3 The 3 establishments which have received lower grades are receiving targeted support. 2 of these establishments are nursery classes where there has been a change in management. 1 is a children's centre and is related to the outdoor learning environment.

## 8.0 NEXT STEPS

- 8.1 Education Services will continue to support and challenge all services to improve their performance. Data will continue to be analysed to identify areas of strength and areas for improvement.

## 9.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

### 9.1 Financial Implications:

One off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report £000	Virement From	Other Comments
N/A					

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Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact £000	Virement From (If Applicable)	Other Comments
N/A					

**Legal**

9.2 There are no legal implications.

**Human Resources**

9.3 There are no human resources implications.

**Equalities**

9.4 Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out?

Yes See attached appendix

No This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a change to an existing policy, function or strategy. Therefore, no Equality Impact Assessment is required.

**Repopulation**

9.5 There are no repopulation implications.

**10.0 CONCLUSIONS**

10.1 Early learning and childcare provision across Inverclyde continue to offer high quality services. Education Services will continue to support establishments to maintain and / or improve the quality of provision.