

Report To:	Education and Communities Committee	Date:	7 May 2013
Report By:	Corporate Director Education, Communities & OD	Contact No:	01475 712817
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Subject:	Governance Report – Partner Providers		

1.0 PURPOSE

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update to Committee on the governance arrangements and outcomes for Partner Providers.

2.0 SUMMARY

2.1 The Policy and Resources Committee agreed in May 2011 to introduce a process to ensure that the Council fulfils its responsibilities towards external organisations effectively.

2.2 During the financial year 2012 /13 there were 5 Partner Providers on the Council's Governance list.

2.3 The Governance requirements for each organisation vary and are detailed in the report.

2.4 The Governance requirements for most organisations have been met in this reporting period.

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

3.1 It is recommended that the Education and Communities Committee note the Governance report.

Albert Henderson
Corporate Director Education & Communities

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The Policy and Resources Committee agreed in May 2011 to introduce a process to ensure that the Council fulfils its responsibilities towards external organisations effectively.
- 4.2 Within the Education Services Governance list there are seven services, five of which are Partner Providers which are the subject of this report.
- 4.3 In line with the Council's Governance risk matrix the oversight arrangements for the 5 Partner Providers are detailed in the table below:

Provider	Governance Arrangements		
	Annual accounts received and reviewed by Council	Documented Meeting	Annual Report Submitted to Corporate Director
Tree Tops Community Nursery	✓	2 per annum	Yes
Wellington Pre 5 Centre	✓	2 per annum	Yes
James Watt College Nursery	✓	1 per annum	No
Madeira Nursery	✓	2 per annum	Yes
Glencairn Nursery	✓	2 per annum	Yes

- 4.4 Tree Tops Community Nursery and Glencairn Nursery will close at the end of June 2013 and therefore will no longer be subject to the governance process.
- 4.5 Enchanted Forest Nursery was commissioned to provide Pre-School Education in August 2013 and will now be subject to the governance process.

5.0 FUNDING DATA

- 5.1 The funding allocated to the services in financial year 2012 / 13 is detailed in the table below:

ESTABLISHMENT	NUMBER OF COMMISSIONED PLACES	FUNDING 2012 / 13
Wellington Nursery	23	£ 29613.00
James Watt College Nursery	30	£ 52453.00
Glencairn Nursery	28	£ 39552.00
Madeira Nursery	28	£ 39152.00
Tree Tops Community Nursery	25	£ 49580.00

6.0 QUALITY OF SERVICES

6.1 A key focus of the governance process is quality of services. This is monitored through various levels of scrutiny including Care Inspectorate and HMIE data; Standard and Quality Reporting and governance visits.

6.2 The Qualitative Data for establishments is detailed in the table below:

Establishment	Care Inspectorate				HMIE				
	Quality of Care and Support	Quality of Environment	Quality of Staffing	Quality of Management and Leadership	Improvements in performance	Children's experiences	Meeting learning needs	The curriculum	Improvement through self-evaluation
Wellington Pre 5 Centre	Very Good	Good	Very Good	Good	Satisfactory	Satisfactory	Satisfactory	Satisfactory	Satisfactory
Tree Tops Community Nursery	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Very Good	Very Good	Good	Good
James Watt College Nursery	Good	Very Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good
Glencairn Nursery	Very Good	Very Good	Very Good	Very Good	(Last inspection January 2008 – different inspection model)				
Madeira Nursery	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Satisfactory	Good	Satisfactory

6.3 The data gathered through scrutiny identified the following issues:

- Wellington Pre 5 Centre is currently engaged with the Local Authority in implementing an action plan to improve quality following their recent HMIE inspection.
- Madeira Nursery was engaged with the Local Authority in implementing an action plan to improve quality following their recent HMIE inspection. This process is now complete.

6.4 There are no concerns over grades allocated by Care Inspectorate.

7.0 COMPLIANCE

7.1 Most establishments are compliant with the Governance process. 1 set of annual accounts have not been received however Education Services has now been assured by the Service's accountant that these will now be supplied.

- 7.2 There has been concern over the financial circumstances of Tree Tops Community Nursery since September 2012.

Since this date closer scrutiny of the services has taken place:

- 1 Officer from Education Services and 1 Officer from Finance have attended date bi-monthly Board of Management Meetings;
- 4 weekly financial updates requested and received;
- Funding arrangements changed to 4 weekly payments in arrears.

On the 4th March 2013 the Board of Tree Tops Community Nursery made the decision to close the service as it was no longer financially viable. This was reported to Education and Communities Committee on 12th March 2013.

- 7.3 The decision to close Glencairn Nursery was made due to their premises being sold and the Company being unable to identify alternative suitable premises. There were no financial concerns with regard to the business.

- 7.4 Within this reporting period 5 governance meetings have taken place with 2 outstanding. These will be completed between April and June 2013.

- 7.5 The annual report to the Corporate Director will be completed in June 2013.

8.0 IMPLICATIONS

8.1 Financial

There are financial issues arising from this report.

8.2 Personnel

There are no personnel issues arising from this report.

8.3 Equalities

The equalities process is embedded within the Governance process.

9.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 It is recommended that the Education and Communities Committee note the Governance report.

10.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 10.1 None