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| Agenda Item | 7        |
| Report No   | CC/44/07 |

Report on Integrated Inspection of Caithness Early Years Autism Centre

Report by Area Education, Culture & Sport Manager – Caithness

**SUMMARY**

This report seeks to appraise Members of the report on the Integrated Inspection by the Care Commission and HM Inspectorate of Education of Caithness Early Years Autism Centre (CEYAC).

**1. BACKGROUND**

1.1 The Regulation of Care (Scotland) Act 2001 requires that the Care Commission inspect all care services covered by the Act every year to monitor the quality of care provided. In accordance with the Act the Care Commission and HM Inspectorate of Education carry out integrated inspections of the quality of care and education.

1.2 In doing this inspection teams take account of

- National Care Standards
- Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16
- The Child at the Centre

**2. INTRODUCTION**

2.1 CEYAC was inspected in September 2006 as part of the integrated inspection programme by the Care Commission and HM Inspectorate of Education. The nursery catered for pre-school children aged 2 to 5 years with additional support needs. At the time of the inspection the roll was 4.

**3. KEY STRENGTHS**

3.1 The report identified the following as key strengths:

- Caring and encouraging interactions between staff and children.
- Children's very good experiences in emotional, personal and social development.
- Very positive relationships with parents.

#### 4. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT

4.1 The findings of the inspection produced six recommendations for improvement:

- The leadership of the centre should be improved and roles, remits and responsibilities clarified.
- Staff should prepare and implement appropriate guidance to improve key aspects of the work of the nursery.
- Staff should develop planning and assessment procedures to ensure appropriate learning experiences and progress for individuals.
- Staff should improve the programmes for communication and language, knowledge and understanding of the world, expressive and aesthetic development and physical development and movement. They should provide more challenge for some children.
- The management team and staff should develop systematic procedures for monitoring and evaluating the quality of children's learning experiences.
- The management team should involve staff consistently in self-evaluation to ensure appropriately high-quality learning experiences.

4.2 Care Commission Officers and HM Inspectors have asked the pre-school centre, and Education Authority to prepare an action plan indicating how they will address the main findings of the report.

#### 5. RECOMMENDATION

5.1 Members are invited to note the recommendations for improvement arising from the inspection.

5.2 Members are further invited to note that the action plan will be drawn up by the relevant officers in line with paragraph 4.2.

Signature:

Designation: Area Education, Culture & Sport Manager – Caithness

Date: 5<sup>th</sup> February, 2007

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Background Papers: Report on Integrated Inspection of CEYAC