

# Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills Committee

## ELLS(2) 15-06(p8)

### Paper to note for Education and Lifelong Learning and Skills Committee Wednesday November 22<sup>nd</sup>

#### CSIW Annual Report 2005-06

The annual report of the Care Standards Inspectorate for Wales was published on October 12<sup>th</sup>. The report provides an overview of trends and the quality of care services in Wales and meets the statutory requirements of the Health and Social Care Act 2003 to include:

- **CSIW's findings in the course of exercising its functions under the Care Standards Act 2000**
- **The way in which CSIW exercised those functions.**

A copy of the report has been made available to all members and the link is below;

<http://www.csiw.wales.gov.uk/fe/default.asp?n1=5&n2=86>

#### Day care services for Under 8's

A key finding of the Report is that during 2005-06 the quality of day care services for Under 8's saw significant improvements. Specifically:

- childminders now largely meet the requirements of the regulations;
- progress was achieved in full day care and out of school care in the areas identified as needing improvement last year;
- there was also evidence of progress in sessional care, open access and creche services.

In terms of availability of service, there was an overall increase of 75 services across Wales. This resulted in a small net increase in child care places which stood at 72,894 at March 31<sup>st</sup> 2006. There was significant regional variation in the number and type of settings available but overall, there was an increase in childminders, out of school care and full day care while there was a decrease in open access provision, creches and sessional care settings.

Across all Under 8's services the main areas requiring development related to the provision of up to

date information for managing staff, record keeping and the management of health and safety. The number of complaints received by CSIW about U8's services fell to 125, and CSIW were notified of 39 child protection issues. None of these matters required enforcement action by CSIW.

The improvements in the quality of Under 8's services have been recognised within CSIW's reform of regulation programme. CSIW has already reduced the normal frequency of inspection for childminders to once every two years leading to more than 1000 less inspections in 2006-07. Additionally, CSIW intends to consider reducing the normal frequency of inspection to once every two years for some other U8's services. This would lead to a further reduction in the number of inspections from April 2007. CSIW are also making more use of self assessment and inspections are now unannounced.

These changes constitute a major reform of the regulation of under 8's services. The aims set out by CSIW in 2004: of ensuring that inspections are proportionate to need, including better performing services receiving a lighter touch; self assessment playing a larger role; inspections being largely unannounced and the child's experience being much more at the centre of the regulatory process, will have been largely achieved. This is a significant contribution to the agenda set out in Making the Connections and Beyond Boundaries.

## **Schools and colleges that offer accommodation to pupils**

The Annual Report also comments on CSIW's findings in relation to schools that offer accommodation to pupils. The role of CSIW in relation to these settings is to monitor that the care provided meets required standards and satisfactorily safeguards and promotes the welfare of children accommodated at the school / college.

The report includes information on residential special schools and independent boarding schools in Wales. The size of this sector has remained largely static with no new schools being established. A total of 1672 places are available which includes an increase of 96 places in independent boarding schools.

The report notes that Residential Special Schools were performing well in relation to many of the required standards with particular strengths noted in relation to planning most aspects of the care of children, staff relationships with children and countering bullying. There are areas for improvement related to the management of child protection and complaints; recruitment and support of staff; meeting the health needs of children; statements of purpose and health and safety.

It was also found that Boarding Schools were performing well in relation to many of the standards. They showed strengths in relation to caring for, and staff relationships with, children, countering bullying, disciplinary processes, boarders health, safety and security and the management and leadership of the boarding provision. There were also areas that required improvement, namely child protection policies and associated staff training, behaviour management and complaints policies.