

Mid Calder After School Club Day Care of Children

Mid Calder Institute Hall
15 Market Street
Mid Calder
Livingston
EH53 0AL

Telephone: 07932 268045

Type of inspection:

Unannounced

Completed on:

22 August 2019

Service provided by:

Mid Calder After School Club
Management Committee

Service provider number:

SP2004005645

Service no:

CS2004058111

About the service

The Care Inspectorate regulates care services in Scotland. Information about all care services is available on our website at www.careinspectorate.com. This service was registered with the Care Commission and transferred its registration to the Care Inspectorate on 01 April 2011.

The Care Inspectorate is committed to improving the health and wellbeing of all children receiving a care service. We want to ensure they have the best start in life, are ready to succeed and live longer, healthier lives.

We check services are meeting the principles of Getting it Right for Every Child (also known as GIRFEC). Set up by Scottish Government, GIRFEC is a national approach to working in a consistent way with all children and young people. It is underpinned by the principles of prevention and early intervention. The approach helps services focus on what makes a positive difference for children and young people, and what they can do to improve. Getting it Right for Every Child is being woven into all policy, practice, strategy and legislation that affect children, young people and their families.

There are eight wellbeing indicators at the heart of Getting it Right for Every Child. They are: safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible, and included. They are often referred to as the SHANARRI indicators. We use these indicators at inspection, to assess how services are making a positive difference for children.

Mid Calder After School Club operates from Mid Calder Institute Hall on Market Street, Mid Calder. The club has use of a large hall on the first floor, two interconnecting rooms on the ground floor, a kitchen on the first floor, toilets on the ground floor and a small outdoor area. The building is used by other community organisations. The club serves two schools in the Mid Calder area. The service is registered to provide out of school and holiday care to a maximum of 45 children aged from Primary 1-14 years old. The service operates between the hours of 07:30 to 18:00, Monday to Friday. The aims of the club included; 'To provide reliable, affordable and professional childcare service for before school, after school and during holidays for children from 4-14 years of age; To provide safe and happy environment for children; To provide a varied programme including arts and crafts, drama, sport, project work and outings.'

What people told us

We spoke with ten children and three parents at the inspection. We also received two completed questionnaires from parents and carers.

Overall parents were happy with the service. They described staff as "fantastic, friendly and approachable". They told us how their children enjoyed being at the club and that there was a variety of activities that suited their likes and interests.

Communication was a strength of the service and parents told us they liked the new closed Facebook which kept them up to date with events in the club.

Children were well settled in the service and spoke positively about their experiences. Through their play they told us;

"I like playing with my best friend."

"I love flamingos and horses."

"I'm trying to juggle."

"I'll show you how to juggle, will I."

"I'm building a house".

Self assessment

The service had not been asked to complete a self-assessment in advance of the inspection. We talked to the manager about their own improvement plan and quality assurance paperwork. These demonstrated their priorities for development and how they were monitoring the quality of the provision within the service.

From this inspection we graded this service as:

Quality of care and support	4 - Good
Quality of environment	not assessed
Quality of staffing	not assessed
Quality of management and leadership	4 - Good

What the service does well

Staff had created a warm and welcoming environment where they had developed positive and respectful relationships with children. Children had developed close friendships and played well together. A particular favourite was the dough as well as arts and craft.

Staff knew children well and supported them in their play. They knew what children's interests were and provided activities that they quickly accessed when they arrived at the club. If children wanted anything else, they asked staff who provided the resources. This meant that children spent long periods of time at activities.

Children's health and wellbeing was supported as they had daily access to an outdoor area or went to the local park for fresh air and exercise. Children confidently displayed their physical skills as they climbed and used the equipment with ease. We saw that children worked well together and were good at taking turns so equipment was shared fairly.

The service was going through a period of transition as a change of manager was planned. While in the early stages, roles and responsibilities were in the process of being established. The service was aware that the appropriate forms need to be submitted through the eform system with information about the changes.

Staff we spoke with during the inspection were confident in their roles. They were skilled and knowledgeable about the procedures to be followed which ensured positive outcomes for children.

Formal and informal ways were in place to monitor the work of the service. Parents had the opportunity to give their views through a survey monkey. The information was collated and any issues raised addressed individually. We saw that children were regularly consulted about what they wanted to do and voted if there was a choice of activities. This enabled children to negotiate and plan what they were doing.

Committee and staff meetings were used to discuss the service. Staff told us about improvements they planned such as a private Facebook page that had recently been introduced. Staff were also keen to develop the resources available outdoors. We talked to the management team about having an improvement plan so there was a record of evaluation and areas for development.

What the service could do better

The management team was in a period of change. Most of the evaluation of the service was carried out on an informal basis. Staff were not aware of the Health and Social Care standards. They should obtain a copy of this document and become familiar with the content as it is used to assess the work of care services. It will help identify areas for development which will improve outcomes for children. This would help the evaluation process. We would encourage the manager to compile an improvement plan so outcomes could be monitored. See recommendation 1.

We asked the service to expand the information they kept about children. For example to include signs and symptoms if children have an allergy or behaviour management techniques used to support children. They should also ensure that all information in relation to medication as outlined in the guidance "Management of medication in daycare of children and childminding services" is recorded.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 1

1. The manager should further develop formal methods for assessing the quality of the service to ensure positive outcomes for children. A development plan which takes into account findings from quality assurance checks and best practice should be compiled and reviewed to monitor progress.

This is to ensure care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards which state 'I benefit from a culture of continuous improvement, from an organisation that has robust transparent quality assurance processes'. (HSCS - 4.19)

Complaints

There have been no complaints upheld since the last inspection. Details of any older upheld complaints are published at www.careinspectorate.com.

What the service has done to meet any requirements we made at or since the last inspection

Previous requirements

There are no outstanding requirements.

What the service has done to meet any recommendations we made at or since the last inspection

Previous recommendations

Recommendation 1

The provider should ensure the staff and management use relevant best practice documents to inform and improve their practice. Using the 'Playwork principles';

'National Care Standards'; 'SHANARRI'; and 'Children's rights' documents to consider what the service does well and what could be better would help to further improve outcomes for children.

This recommendation was made on 3 March 2017.

Action taken on previous recommendation

The staff were aware of children's interests and supported this through a range of activities. Children were treated with respect and involved in decision making. They were aware of best practice guidance that could inform their practice and were planning to develop the outdoor area. We asked the service to get a copy of the Health and Social Care standards to continue improving the outcomes for children. This recommendation is met.

Recommendation 2

The manager should put into place a formal method for assessing the quality of the service to ensure positive outcomes for children. Policies and procedures should be reviewed regularly in line with changes to legislation and best practice. An ongoing development plan which takes into account findings from quality assurance checks and best practice should be developed and maintained.

National Care Standards for early education and childcare up to the age of 16. Standard 13: Improving the service. Standard 14: Well managed service.

This recommendation was made on 3 March 2017.

Action taken on previous recommendation

This recommendation is partly met as policies and procedures had been reviewed and updated. The manager needs to further develop formal monitoring of the service so we will amend the recommendation to reflect this.

Inspection and grading history

Date	Type	Gradings
16 Jan 2017	Unannounced	Care and support 4 - Good Environment 4 - Good Staffing 4 - Good Management and leadership 4 - Good
16 Feb 2016	Unannounced	Care and support 3 - Adequate Environment 4 - Good Staffing 4 - Good Management and leadership 3 - Adequate
19 Dec 2012	Unannounced	Care and support 4 - Good Environment 4 - Good Staffing 4 - Good Management and leadership 4 - Good
15 Dec 2011	Unannounced	Care and support 4 - Good Environment Not assessed Staffing 4 - Good Management and leadership Not assessed
16 Feb 2011	Unannounced	Care and support 4 - Good Environment 4 - Good Staffing Not assessed Management and leadership Not assessed
19 Feb 2010	Unannounced	Care and support 4 - Good Environment 3 - Adequate Staffing 4 - Good Management and leadership 4 - Good

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