

<b>Report to</b>	Governance and Audit Committee
<b>Date of meeting</b>	24 <sup>th</sup> July 2024
<b>Lead Member / Officer</b>	Cllr Gill German, Lead Member for Education, Children and Families / Nicola Stubbins, Corporate Director: Social Services and Education
<b>Head of Service</b>	Rhiain Morrle, Head of Children's Services
<b>Report author</b>	Nicola Stubbins, Corporate Director: Social Services and Education
<b>Title</b>	Care Inspectorate Wales Inspection (CIW) & Estyn Inspection Report – Little Acorns at Christ the Word

## **1. What is the report about?**

1.1. The CIW and Estyn Inspection carried out on Little Acorns at Christ the Word on 20/2/2024 (Appendix 1).

## **2. What is the reason for making this report?**

2.1. To provide information regarding the recent CIW and Estyn Inspection carried out at Little Acorns at Christ the Word.

## **3. What are the Recommendations?**

3.1. That the Committee confirms that it has read, understood and taken account of the contents of the report and comment as appropriate.

## 4. Report details

- 4.1. Little Acorns at Christ the Word is a Playgroup, Afterschool and Holiday Club providing full day and sessional care based at Christ the Word Catholic School in Rhyl.
- 4.2. Little Acorns opened in August 2019. This is the first joint CIW & Estyn inspection of Little Acorns.
- 4.3. CIW and Estyn evaluate a provider's effectiveness using a four-point judgement scale – excellent, good, adequate, and poor. Four themes were judged as excellent and one theme as good.
- 4.4. There were no areas of non-compliance identified during this inspection.
- 4.5. Summary findings within the inspection report include;
- 4.5.1. Well-being: Excellent: Nearly all children contribute superbly to how they play and learn. The voice of the children is exceptionally strong. Children of all ages interact with each other and practitioners exceptionally well. Nearly all children develop independence remarkably well, including the youngest children.
- 4.5.2. Care and development: Excellent: Practitioners support children's health and well-being highly effectively. Practitioners pay excellent attention to all aspects of hygiene. Practitioners provide excellent support for children. Practitioners often use Welsh effectively. Practitioners know the children superbly well.
- 4.5.3. Teaching and assessment: Excellent: Practitioners have a very affectionate and warm relationship with children and treat them with care and respect. Practitioners ensure that there are high quality opportunities for children to develop their literacy skills. Practitioners are consistent and extremely skilful in their approach to managing behaviour. Practitioners actively promote the cultural heritage of Wales...and... promote the Welsh language very well.
- 4.5.4. Environment: Good: Leaders ensure that the environment is safe for children. Leaders provide an effective play and learning environment. Leaders make sure that children are well cared for in a supportive and relaxing learning environment, which considers children's interests and their individual needs well.
- 4.5.5. Leadership and management: Excellent: Leaders are extremely enthusiastic and passionate about the work of the setting. Practitioners are

highly valued and leaders prioritise the well-being of staff. Leaders and practitioners have excellent partnership with parents and carers.

4.6. The only recommendation in the inspection report was: Develop the outdoor area to further enhance experiences that engage and challenge children effectively.

## **5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Plan 2022 to 2027: The Denbighshire We Want?**

5.1. A healthier and happier, caring Denbighshire

5.2. A learning and growing Denbighshire

5.3. A well-run, high performing council

## **6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?**

6.1. The delivery of the service is contained within allocated budgets.

## **7. What are the main conclusions of the Well-being Impact Assessment?**

7.1. A Well-being Impact Assessment will generally be required for decisions or proposals for change in order to comply with the Equality Act 2010, the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Welsh Language Standards. As this is a report on an inspection outcome a well-being Impact Assessment is not required

## **8. What consultations have been carried out with Scrutiny and others?**

8.1. The Lead Member has been informed of the inspection. This is the first opportunity to present the report following its publication.

## **9. Chief Finance Officer Statement**

9.1. N/A

## **10. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?**

10.1. The inspection report highlights all the areas identified that required improvements with only one recommendation made.