

**REPORT TO:** Education & Children's Services PPRP

**MEETING DATE:** 12 December 2006

**BY:** Director of Education and Children's Services

**SUBJECT:** Inspection of Residential Childcare by the  
Care Commission

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## **1 PURPOSE**

- 1.1 To advise PPRP of the outcome of inspections by the Care Commission to East Lothian Council's two residential units for children.

## **2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 That PPRP notes the contents of this report and the plans for addressing the recommendations made by the Care Commission.

## **3 BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The Scottish Commission for the Regulation of Care (The Care Commission) was established in April 2002 as the new Independent Regulator set up under the Regulation of Care (Scotland) Act 2001 to regulate care services in Scotland.
- 3.2 Among the services regulated by the Care Commission are residential care for children. Care Commission Officers undertake planned inspections of residential care homes for children on an annual basis, and also undertake unannounced visits.
- 3.3 The standards required of care services are statutory, and copies are available in hard copy and on the Care Commissions website.
- 3.4 During each inspection the Care Commission focuses on a number of standards. In relation to planned inspections, notice is given of these in advance.
- 3.5 The reports of the Care Commissions inspections are available to the public, and can be found on the Care Commissions website.

- 3.6 The Care Commission has the power to close down care facilities or impose enforcement actions and statutory requirements if standards are not being met.
- 3.7 Pathway Resource Centre was inspected by the Care Commission on 19 September 2006. A copy of the Inspection Report is appended. No enforcement actions or requirements were imposed as a result of the inspection. A number of recommendations were made about service improvements and these are being taken forward by the management and staff.
- 3.8 The Care Commission undertook a planned inspection of Lothian Villa young peoples centre on 20 September 2006. A copy of the inspection report is appended. No enforcement actions or requirements were imposed as a result of the inspection. A number of recommendations were made and these are being taken forward by managers and staff, subject to available resources.

**4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 None

**5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

Some of the areas for development identified by the Care Commission have resource implications. These will be managed within existing budgets. It may not be possible to upgrade the furnishings and fittings within the current financial year. The Care Commission recommended a review of the staffing levels at Lothian Villa. Clarification of this is being sought, but it is not felt that additional staffing resources are required.

**6 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 6.1 Inspection Reports relating to Pathway and Lothian Villa have not yet been made available electronically by the Care Commission and will be tabled at the meeting

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