



**East Ayrshire**  
COUNCIL

## **SOCIAL WORK INSPECTION UNIT**

### **INSPECTION REPORT AND SUMMARY REPORT**

#### **Kerrmuir Hostel**

**Date of Inspection: 2<sup>nd</sup> November 1999**

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## INSPECTION INFORMATION

**NAME OF ESTABLISHMENT:** **Kerrmuir Hostel**

**LOCATION OF ESTABLISHMENT:** Hurlford

**MANAGING ORGANISATION:** **East Ayrshire Council**

**CATEGORY (as per Registration):** Adults with Learning Difficulties

**MAXIMUM NUMBER OF RESIDENTS  
TO BE ACCOMMODATED (as per Registration):** 12

**NUMBER RESIDENTS/ATTENDING  
AT TIME OF VISIT:** 11

**NATURE OF INSPECTION** **Full/announced**

**INSPECTOR(S) PARTICIPATING:** **Bill Duncan**  
George Stewart

**DATE(S) OF INSPECTION:**

**DATE OF LAST INSPECTION REPORT:** 16<sup>th</sup> March 1999

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON  
THIS ESTABLISHMENT CONTACT** **Joyce Lappin**

## QUALITY OF RECORDS

### 1. Sampled Case Files

**(a) Recommendations in last report**

None

**(b) Findings at this Inspection - Progress**

A number of case files were examined and found to be of the high standard noted at previous inspections.

**(c) Additional Inspectors observations at this Inspection**

None

### 2. Sampled Financial Records

**(a) Recommendations in last report**

None

**(b) Findings at this Inspection - Progress**

Records of residents individual financial transactions were examined. These were well kept, informative and signed for. A detailed audit was not undertaken.

**(c) Additional Inspectors observations at this Inspection**

None

### 3. Other records including specific comment on Fire Safety records and Medication records

**(a) Recommendations in last report**

It is recommended that action be taken to ensure all staff complete the medication documents at the appropriate time. It is further recommended that a regular audit is conducted to ensure this is taking place.

**(b) Findings at this Inspection - Progress**

Inspectors examined unit medication records. These were well maintained and all transactions appear to have been recorded and signed for. It was noted that the manager has regularly been reviewing the standard of medication records. These records are now being maintained to a good standard.

**(c) Additional Inspectors observations at this Inspection**

None

## QUALITY OF MANAGEMENT AND STAFFING

### 1. Communication systems within the staff group

**(a) Recommendations in last report**

None

**(b) Findings at this Inspection - Progress**

Residents individual files and other records examined indicate that a good quality of staff communication is maintained.

**(c) Additional Inspectors observations at this Inspection**

None

### 2. Staffing Levels

**(a) Recommendations in last report**

None

**(b) Findings at this Inspection - Progress**

Inspectors examined rotas and were satisfied that an appropriate level of staffing is in place.

**(c) Additional Inspectors observations at this Inspection**

None

### 3. Staff Training and Qualifications

**(a) Recommendations in last report**

None

**(b) Findings at this Inspection - Progress**

Not inspected on this occasion.

**(c) Additional Inspectors observations at this Inspection**

None

## QUALITY OF PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

### 1. Compliance with space standards

**(a) Recommendations in last report**

None

**(b) Findings at this Inspection - Progress**

In view of the proposed move to new accommodation this was not examined in detail. Inspectors note that the bedroom which was considered to be undersize has been taken out of use.

**(c) Additional Inspectors observations at this Inspection**

None

### 2. Heating levels (including water temperature control)

**(a) Recommendations in last report**

None

**(b) Findings at this Inspection - Progress**

Heating levels appeared satisfactory throughout the building and no priority issues were identified.

**(c) Additional Inspectors observations at this Inspection**

None

### 3. Hygiene and cleanliness

**(a) Recommendations in last report**

None

**(b) Findings at this Inspection - Progress**

The unit appeared acceptably clean throughout.

**(c) Additional Inspectors observations at this Inspection**

#### 4. Safety of the environment

**(a) Recommendations in last report**

it is recommended that steps be taken to ensure that all food is clearly labelled to identify expiry dates and that regular checks are made to ensure these dates are not exceeded.

**(b) Findings at this Inspection - Progress**

Inspectors note that the previous recommendation has been fully actioned and that containers have appropriate expiry dates clearly labelled.

**(c) Additional Inspectors observations at this Inspection**

inspectors were informed that Local Youths have been attempting to break in to the establishment and actually gained entry on one occasion.

Inspectors note that only a very low open fence separates the rear of the unit from a common public space and nearby houses. Inspectors acknowledge that replacement fencing may not be possible in the context of an impending move. **It is recommended however that a review of security at the rear of the building is undertaken promptly with advice from the Police.** Measures which might be considered would include improved security lighting at the rear and an angled mirror outside the kitchen windows to improve staff observation of the rear of the building.

#### 5. Fabric and decor standards

**(a) Recommendations in last report**

None

**(b) Findings at this Inspection - Progress**

Inspectors acknowledge that major changes to fabric and décor standards are not a priority given the impending move.

Inspectors did note however that the décor in one bathroom in particular has reached a very poor state with paper having been half –stripped form the wall. This bathroom should be brought up to a basic standard of décor.

**(c) Additional Inspectors observations at this Inspection**

None

## 6. Standards of building maintenance

**(a) Recommendations in last report**

None

**(b) Findings at this Inspection - Progress**

Note comments made under previous section. A broken window in a utility room near to the kitchen requires repair.

**(c) Additional Inspectors observations at this Inspection**

None

## QUALITY OF CARE ARRANGEMENTS

### 1. Care System: Methods for Individual Care Planning and Review

**(a) Recommendations in last report**

None

**(b) Findings at this Inspection - Progress**

Care plans were completed to a good standard. Inspectors noted that work had been underway to define individualised support packages for residents following the anticipated move to new accommodation. It was also noted that a positive view had been taken of the potential of some individuals for more individualised living arrangements in the form of annuity housing.

**(c) Additional Inspectors observations at this Inspection**

None

### 2. Quality of Menus and Catering arrangements

**(a) Recommendations in last report**

None

**(b) Findings at this Inspection - Progress**

Menus were acceptable. Inspectors noted that individual preferences have to an extent limited the range of the menus that can be offered.

**(c) Additional Inspectors observations at this Inspection**

None

**3. Quality of activity programmes**

**(a) Recommendations in last report**

None

**(b) Findings at this Inspection - Progress**

These were not examined at this inspection.

**(c) Additional Inspectors observations at this Inspection**

**INSPECTORS FINDINGS ON OTHER VIEWS**

**1. Self Evaluation Summary**

**(a) Recommendations in last report**

**(b) Findings at this Inspection - Progress**

**(c) Additional Inspectors observations at this Inspection**

**2. Staff views expressed**

**(a) Recommendations in last report**

None

**(b) Findings at this Inspection - Progress**

Various staff expressed views about delays which have developed in the plans for moving to new accommodation. It was suggested that the delay was proving unsettling for residents and that it had become more difficult to maintain residents motivation in the way they were going to develop Independent Living Skills. Staff also expressed anxiety about recent break in attempts at the unit and had general concerns about security as a result.

**(c) Additional Inspectors observations at this Inspection**  
None

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**EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL - SOCIAL WORK INSPECTION UNIT**

**SUMMARY INSPECTION REPORT**

**Kerrmuir  
2<sup>nd</sup> November 1999**

**Summary of Inspection**

Kerrmuir provides residential care for 12 adults with learning difficulties in adapted terraced housing close to the amenities of Hurlford.

Since the last inspection one bedroom which had been found to be undersized has been taken out of use.

The previous work to ensure a high standard of record keeping and communication systems has been maintained. Individuals care planning continues to be focussed on Independent Living Skills and preparation for the anticipated move to new accommodation.

Some items of maintenance to the fabric and décor were noted but the inspectors did not focus on items which might require more extensive attention in view of the impending move.

A previous recommendation on the storage arrangements for food had been actioned. The menu, kitchen and dining arrangements were all found to be acceptable. Two issues emerged from the inspectors discussions with both staff and residents.

First, there was a general concern at delays to what had been the original planned dates for the change to new accommodation. All felt that the delay made it difficult for everyone to keep focused on the move. Second, both staff and residents expressed anxiety about their security and the security of the building in the light of recent attempted buildings. In the inspectors view this was one of the most pressing issues for users of this establishment.

**Previous recommendations carried forward:**

None

**Further recommendations**

**1. It is recommended that a review of security at the rear of the building is**

undertaken promptly with advice from the Police.

2. Upstairs bathrooms require attention to fabric and décor.
3. A broken window in the upstairs utility room requires repair.

<b>Commendations</b>
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**LEAD INSPECTOR:**

**SIGNATURE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**COUNTERSIGNED BY HEAD OF UNIT: W J Duncan**

**SIGNATURE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

<b>AGENDA</b>
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