

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015CC063
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Boherbue Educare Centre CLG
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	The Village, Boherbue, Mallow, Co. Cork
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<b>Eircode:</b>	P51 FA34
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Caitriona Hallisey
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<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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<b>Date(s) of Inspection:</b>	16/02/2026
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	63	PM	44
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Second Floor, Estuary House, Henry Street, Limerick.
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<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	F Collins and M Riordan
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<b>Title:</b>	Early Years Inspectors
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### Authority to Inspect

The Tusla Early Years Inspectorate carries out inspections of Early Years Services under Section 58(J) of the Child Care Act 1991 (as inserted by Section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013).

<b>Conditions if applicable</b>	Not applicable
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### Description of service

Boherbue Educare Centre CLG is a full day care service located in the rural setting of Boherbue village in North Cork. The service is a community run service with oversight from a board of management. The pre-school is registered to cater for children aged 0-6 years with the service also registered to operate a school aged childcare service. The service is open daily from Monday to Friday from 7.30 am to 6pm. The service offers full day care, part-time and sessional care, and facilitates the Early Childhood Care and Education programme for 38 weeks of the year.

### Staffing

There were 25 staff and 2 students identified as working in the service, with one staff member on extended leave. Twenty-three staff were present on the day of the inspection and of these 20 were working directly with the pre-school children.

The remaining three staff members included one staff member working in the kitchen in the provision of meals, one staff member working in the office and the person in charge, who was not providing direct childcare but available to support if required.

The service was accommodating students for work experience for the transition year programme and for practice hours for a childcare programme.

### Methodology

Tusla's Early Years Inspectorate is the independent statutory regulator of early years services in Ireland. The Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 define the duty of a registered provider to ensure the safety and well-being of children and to comply with these regulations. This Act also gives Tusla the authority to assess compliance with the regulations. The purpose of regulation in relation to early years services is to ensure that the care, safety, and well-being of children attending such services is upheld. Inspections of early years services are planned based on the following:

- Previous inspection history
- Any information received in relation to the service

The findings on inspection are based on:

- Information obtained through examination of documentation
- Direct observation
- Discussion with relevant staff

This inspection was unannounced and focused on the area of governance/ health, welfare and development of child/ safety/ premises and facilities. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

Inspection findings are documented in the inspection report which is first issued in draft format to the service with an opportunity to respond to any findings. Where statutory requirements are identified as not being met, the registered provider must demonstrate how they have rectified the non-compliance and will prevent any non-compliance from re occurring. The Corrective Action and Preventive Action plan (CAPA) will be used to inform decisions about compliance with regulatory requirements. Where the registered provider fails to meet the statutory requirements an escalation process may be commenced.

The inspectorate reserves the right to edit responses received for reasons including clarity, completeness and compliance with administrative and legal processes.

The contents of the report are compiled by the inspectorate body.

## Acknowledgments

The inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the person in charge, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

## Additional Comments

16/02/2026

An immediate action notice was issued to the person in charge to take immediate action for the hot water in the sinks in the children's toilets of the Busy Bees room being recorded at 53.8 and 52.9°C respectively.

17/02/2026

A response to the immediate action notice was received which mitigated the risk identified.

### Part III – Management and Staff

#### Regulation 9 – Management and recruitment

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that-

- (a) the service has a designated person in charge and a named person who is able to deputise as required,
- (b) at all times during the period when the pre-school service is being carried on, the designated person in charge or the named person referred to in subparagraph (a) is on the premises, and
- (c) there is a clear management structure in the service that identifies the lines of authority and accountability in the service and the specific roles and responsibilities of each employee and unpaid worker.

(2) A registered provider shall ensure that each employee, unpaid worker and contractor is suitable and competent taking into consideration the nature of the needs of children, including by-

- (a) consideration of references from the person's past employers, if any, and in particular the most recent employer, if any,
- (b) consideration of references from reputable sources in the case of a person who has no past employers,
- (c) consideration of the vetting disclosure received from the National Vetting Bureau of the Garda Síochána in accordance with the Act of 2012 in respect of the person, and
- (d) ensuring, insofar as is practicable, that where a person has lived in a state other than the State for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months, he or she provides police vetting from the police authorities in that state.

(3) The procedures specified in paragraph (2) shall be carried out prior to any person being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the pre-school service.

(4) A registered provider shall ensure that, without prejudice to the generality of paragraph (2) and subject to paragraphs (5) and (6), each employee working directly with children attending the service holds at least a major award in Early childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.

#### Compliance Information

(1)

(a) The service had a designated person in charge and a deputy person in charge; both were on the premises on the day of inspection. The staff were aware of who was in charge at all times.

(b) The person in charge or a named deputy person in charge were on the premises at all times during the operation of the service.

(c) There was a clear structure in the service that identified the management structure. Each care room had a room leader and childcare staff. The service was accommodating two students, on a transition year programme and one on a childcare placement from a third level institution.

- (2)
- Twenty-five adults work in the service, of these only one adult had commenced work in the service along with two students, since the last inspection in February 2025. These three files were assessed along with the Garda vetting renewal for six adults.
- (a) Of the six references required five validated references were available from past employers.
- (b) Of the six references required one validated reference was available from a source other than a past employer.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures were on file for all the three new adults working in the service and the service also adhered to the regulatory notice ensuring staff have up to date Garda vetting where the six staff who required updated Garda vetting since the last inspection had this renewed.
- (d) Police vetting was required and available where required for one adult who works in the service and has access to children.
- (3) The vetting processes as outlined in (2) above were completed prior to staff commencing in the service and having access to children.
- (4) Not applicable as no new staff member due to their job description required a qualification.

### Part III – Management and Staff

#### Regulation 11 - Staffing levels

- (1) Subject to this Regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that there is at all times an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the pre-school service.*
- (2) Subject to paragraphs (4) and (5), a registered provider of a full day care service or a part-time day care service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 1 of Schedule 6 opposite a particular reference number specified in column (1) of that Part in respect of the age range of the children specified in column (2) thereof at that reference number is satisfied.*
- (8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)-*
- (a) a registered provider of a pre-school service other than a child-minding service or a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that there are at least 2 adults on the premises at all times,*

### Compliance Information

(1) All six care rooms were in operation on the day of inspection. The registered provider ensured that at all times there was a suitable number of adults directly caring for the children in attendance.

(2) The adult child ratios were correct as observed throughout the day.

- The Baby room had three qualified staff caring for six children in the morning and two staff caring for the six children in the afternoon, all children aged between one and two years. All children attending in this care room were attending on a full day care basis.
- The Caterpillar (Toddler) room had three qualified staff working with the eleven children in attendance in the morning and two staff caring for ten children in the afternoon, all children in attendance were aged three years.
- The Ladybirds (junior pre-school) room was staffed by three qualified adults caring for twelve children in the morning and one adult caring for seven children in the afternoon. The children in this care room were three years of age.
- The Busy Bees (senior pre-school) room was staffed by four qualified adults caring for sixteen children aged between four and five years in the morning and three staff caring for sixteen children in the afternoon.
- The Buttercups room (senior pre-school) was staffed by two adults in the morning caring for ten children all aged four years. These children joined the Busy Bees room in the afternoon after the sessional service ended and when the children who were staying on in the service had their dinner.
- The Dolphin room (Junior pre-school) room outside had two adults caring for eight children aged three to four years and one adult caring for five children in the afternoon. Late afternoon this room was used for the school aged service and the children joined with the children being cared for in the Ladybirds room.

Staff cover for breaks was provided by the staff and a roster was available to ensure all staff were aware of who was on break and who the relief cover was.

All staff on the day of inspection were aware of their rostered hours of work and their breaks, these were consistent with what was recorded on the staff roster received by the inspector from the person in charge.

(8) (a) The roster provided to the inspector by the person in charge identified that a minimum of two staff were on the premises at all times during the operation of the service.

### Part IV – Information and Records

#### Regulation 15 – Record of pre-school child

*(1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a pre-school service in a drop-in centre or a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a record in writing is kept in respect of each pre-school child attending the service containing the following particulars:*

- (a) the name and date of birth of the child;*
- (b) the date on which the child first attended the service;*
- (c) the date on which the child ceased to attend the service;*
- (d) the name and address of a parent or guardian of the child and a telephone number where that parent or guardian or a relative or friend of the child can be contacted during the hours of operation of the service;*
- (e) authorisation for the collection of the child;*
- (f) details of any illness, disability, allergy or special need of the child, together with all the information relevant to the provision of special care or attention;*
- (g) the name and telephone number of the child's registered medical practitioner;*
- (h) record of immunisations, if any, received by the child;*
- (i) written parental consent for appropriate medical treatment of the child in the event of an emergency.*

#### Compliance Information

(1)

Of the 63 children present on the day of the inspection, a sample of 22 children's registration forms were inspected. This included a sample of records from each care room.

The registration forms contained the information as required in (a) –(i) above on 20 of the 22 forms assessed

(3) (c) The records as identified above were made available to the inspector for review by the person in charge and the forms were stored in the services office.

#### Non-Compliance Information

(1)

Of the 22 children's registration forms that were inspected there were 2 that did not have the following information included.

(f) details of any illness, disability, allergy or special need of the child, together with all the information relevant to the provision of special care or attention.

(h) record of immunisations, if any, received by the child

(i) written parental consent for appropriate medical treatment of the child in the event of an emergency.

To ensure the safety of all children who attend the service the above information is required prior to each child's enrolment.

### Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### **Corrective and Preventive Action**

(1)  
(f), (h) & (j) The relevant children's information has been updated to ensure all of the requirements as identified are now available to the staff.

The service has developed a checklist system to ensure the information required for the children enrolled in the service is available and on site. The registered provider has also stated that the room leaders will ensure there is ongoing audit of the information available to them.

#### **Supporting documentation submitted**

(1) (f), (h) & (j) The two enrolment forms received outlined the required information.

The newly developed checklist has been received.

### Summary Comment

The requirements for this regulation have been met following receipt of the corrective and preventive action and the evidence received.

## Part IV – Information and Records

### Regulation 16 – Record in relation to pre-school service

*(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of the following information in relation to the service:*

*(k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.*

### Compliance Information

(k) A total of 16 accident and incident forms were assessed that had been completed since the last inspection and all forms were completed correctly with the staff that witnessed the incident, the manager on duty at the time and the parent/guardian signatures on all forms ensuring parents/guardians were aware of the accidents /incidents that occurred within the service.

### Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

#### Regulation 19 - Health, welfare and development of child

(1) A registered provider shall, in providing a pre-school service, ensure that-

(a) each child's learning, development and well-being is facilitated within the daily life of the pre-school service through the provision of the appropriate activities, interaction, materials and equipment, having regard to the age and stage of development of the child, and

#### Compliance Information

##### BASIC NEEDS:

- A healthy eating policy was implemented at the service, ensuring the provision of nutritious foods and snacks to children daily. Breakfast was available for early arrivals. A nutritious hot meal was served for dinner with alternative choices provided if necessary. Spaghetti bolognese was served on the day of the inspection. This was served with mashed potatoes in the Baby room. Morning and afternoon snacks featuring bread rolls, sandwiches, fruit portions and various yogurts. Second helpings were offered at all meals. Drinks were offered with all meals. Staff sat with children while eating and mealtimes were observed to be sociable occasions. The children in the pre-school rooms brought their own snacks and these were in keeping with the healthy eating policy.
- The room temperatures were suitable and ranged between 18.5 and 19.3°C.
- The children sat on appropriately low chairs placed at suitable height tables in all six care rooms. The children were observed to sit with their peers and engage with them during meals and snacks. Crockery and cutlery were available, and the cutlery provided was suited to the age range of the children, plastic bowls and cutlery were provided in the Caterpillar room, forks were provided in the Busy Bees room for dinner and spoons for yogurts in the Dolphin room.
- The needs of the children that required additional support appeared to be met with the staff having access to access and inclusion plans to guide them on the individual requirements for each child. Five access and inclusion plans were reviewed indicating each child's individual plan
- The care needs for a child with a food intolerance was identified and a plan had been put in place to ensure the child received suitable foods for dinner and afternoon snack.
- The children in the pre-school rooms were independent when using the toilet but were observed to receive reminders to wash hands.
- Nappy changing facilities were located adjacent to the Baby room and the Toddler (Caterpillar) room. Waist-high changing units were accessible and maintained in good condition, with easy-to-clean change mats

supplied. Steps were provided to ensure ease of access for older children. Nappy changing procedures were displayed on the wall of the facility, and staff were observed adhering to the guidelines as outlined in the policy. Open shelving units held children's toiletries, all clearly labelled and within easy reach of staff. Handwashing facilities were situated next to the changing unit, and foot pedal-operated lidded bins were available for safe nappy disposal. Low level sinks were also available to facilitate children washing their hands.

- Children were allowed to move freely and no restriction on the movement of any child was observed.
- The service featured 2 sleep rooms, both positioned directly next to the Baby room. Each child under 2 years of age had access to a cot when needed. Both rooms were equipped with facilities to minimise lighting during sleep times. Room temperatures were monitored to ensure safe and ambient room temperatures at all times. The temperature recorded on the day of the inspection was 19°Celsius. For children over two years old, requiring a nap, low-level beds and sleep mats were provided. Staff closely monitored all children during sleep, with all checks recorded in writing.

#### **SUPPORTING RELATIONSHIPS AROUND CHILDREN:**

- The staff of the service spoke with parents and guardians at drop off and collection times. Written information was given to parents every day outlining what the children had to eat and drink, how they had slept, information on toileting and details of the activities they participated in and engaged in throughout the day.
- Staff appeared to work well together providing support as needed to assist each other.
- The care rooms were staffed by the same staff daily. The breaks were mainly covered by the staff within the care rooms with the person in charge assisting if required. The children were comfortable with their carers and were noted to seek support and assistance from them when needed and knew the staff by name.
- The interactions between the children were supported and where children needed help to engage with each other. Small and large group play was observed to be supported in the Butterfly's, Busy Bees and Dolphin rooms.
- The children in the Butterfly's room were given choices in activities where they voted for musical chairs when offered three different activities after story time as it was too wet to go outside.
- A staff member was observed to sit in between the children on the floor of the Butterfly's room as the stories were being told, this allow the children to interact with them when it was not their turn to tell their story.

### Physical and Material Environment

- The Baby room was large, bright, and spacious with soft mats for floor play. Low level soft furnishings provided rest areas, while adult seating allowed staff to sit comfortably with children. A climbing frame included steps and a low slide. Low level open shelving units held age-appropriate toys. Push and pull toys aided early walking and climbing skills, while stationary toys helped with standing.
- The Toddler room offered ample floor space for activities. The home corner featured a kitchen unit with utensils, dolls, and prams for imaginative play. Construction materials, open-ended play items, and puzzles were easily accessible. A rest relaxation space occupied one corner of the room. Children were observed gravitating to this space throughout the morning, when time away from busy play areas was required.
- Tuff trays filled with sand and open-ended play items like building blocks and art supplies were available. Children's artwork and educational posters were displayed at children's eye level. Room layout and designs were rearranged depending on each child's evolving interests and their stage of development.

### PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES

- A programme of activities was followed in the care rooms. The Dolphin room had a schedule of activities for the day; this allowed the children know their routine and be comfortable with it. The staff used a bell to indicate transitions were about to happen or were ready to happen which allowed the children time to adjust to the movement between activities.
- Outdoor play was scheduled daily however due to severe weather on the day of inspection only one or two children got outside, and this was to provide them with movement breaks and allow them to regulate away from the larger group.
- Imaginary play was supported in the Dolphin room with dress up activities, bakers, doctors and those working with farm and wild animals. Sensory play was supported when using playdough with rolling pins and cutters and the rice and pasta tuff tray with shovels.
- The children in the Butterfly's room were supported to do activities for gross motor play such as running around playing musical chairs as the weather was poor and the children could not access the outdoors.
- Fine motor development was supported in the Butterfly's room and Busy Bees room and the Dolphin room with tabletop activities of blocks and bricks, magnets and through art activities.
- The service supported a language rich environment with stories being told, books being read and the Busy Bees room focused on emotions with many books available to support children when learning to manage and deal with their emotions.

### OUTDOOR AREA

- There were five outdoor areas, one for the younger children and four for the various older groups with all children having access to the meadow when it was suitable to access in favourable weather. The play spaces were suitable for the ages of children using them. The ground cover on the outdoor areas was soft matting, artificial grass and grass.

### Part VI - Safety

#### Regulation 23 - Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child

*A registered provider shall ensure that all reasonable measures are taken to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of a pre-school child attending the service and that the environment of the service is safe.*

#### Compliance Information

##### General Safety:

- The internal and external doors were secured as required. The parents identified themselves to each room on arrival and where the parents accessed the main door staff came to meet them. The children in the junior and senior pre-school rooms parents/guardians dropped the children to the individual door from the sides of the buildings. The gates to the sides were opened for drop off and outside of these times were secured by electromagnetic locks. There were switches high on the wall for staff and parents to use when exiting the building. This prevented any child gaining access to the outside carpark and prevented unauthorised adults from gaining access to the children.
- The opening for the windows was restricted, and no child could gain access to the outdoors via a window.
- The electrical cables observed were in good condition and out of reach of the children.
- The toys and play equipment assessed were in good condition and free from pinch and crush points.
- Heavy equipment and furniture were secured to the walls as appropriate to ensure they did not fall on a child should they climb on same.
- Cleaning agents were stored out of reach on high shelves.

##### Infection Control:

- The service was cleaned appropriately.
- The children were observed to wash their hands in all care rooms before snack time and dinner time, after messy play and after using the toilet. The children were assisted with hand washing by the staff as required.

- There were hot water, liquid hand soap and paper towels and lidded bins available at all children and adult toilets and at the sinks in the care rooms. Staff were observed handwashing before and after each nappy change. Disposable aprons and gloves were worn by staff. All change mats were disinfected after each use and all nappies were safely disposed of, in foot pedal operated lidded bins.
- Children had individual shelves and hooks for the storage of their coats and bags, to ensure they were off the ground.
- Staff were observed to clean the tables before and after mealtimes in the Dolphin room and in the Busy Bees room, with a suitable disinfectant.

### Administration of Medication:

- No medication was observed to be administered on the day of inspection.

### Safe Sleep:

- Staff were observed closely monitoring all children while they slept. All 10-minute sleep checks were recorded in writing. Staff remained at all times in the room with all children who slept on low level beds and sleep mats.

### Fire Safety:

- Firefighting equipment was accessible and was suitably fixed to the walls.

### Non-Compliance Information

#### General Safety:

1. The hot water in the taps in the toilets used by the children in the Busy Bees room was recorded at 53.8 and 52.9°C respectively. The deputy person in charge was immediately informed, an immediate action notice was issued, and the taps were taken out of use. Water above 50°C poses a risk of a scald injury to a child. A response to the immediate action notice was received on 17/02/2026 indicating the actions taken to address the hot water and the actions taken have been accepted that the issue has been resolved.

#### Infection Control:

2. The step used in the children's toilet in the Dolphin room had areas where the paint had worn away exposing porous wood below which would be difficult to clean. Areas of porous wood in sanitary areas allow for contamination and cross infection as it is not easily cleanable.
3. The snacks that contained perishable items in the Dolphin room were not refrigerated on arrival and may allow for bacterial growth when left at room temperature and potentially cause illness in a child.

### Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### Corrective & Preventive Action

##### General Safety:

1. The hot water was fixed by a plumber on the day of inspection with actions taken to prevent this from recurrence.

##### Infection Control:

2. The step has been painted, and staff have been reminded to ensure that issues with furnishings are reported to management, to ensure they are repaired /replaced.
3. Staff have been reminded to place all perishable items contained in children's snacks in the fridge on arrival in the service until snack time.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

##### General Safety:

1. Evidence has been received from the plumber indicating the hot water has been thermostatically controlled.

##### Infection Control:

2. A photograph of the step in the Dolphin room has been received.
3. The assurance received on the corrective and preventive action form is accepted as proof that this has been addressed.

### Summary Comment

The requirements for this regulation have been met following the corrective and preventive action process.

### Part VI - Safety

#### Regulation 28 - Insurance

*A registered provider shall ensure that the pre-school service is adequately insured.*

#### Compliance Information

The service was insured as a full day care service and to have a maximum of 96 children onsite at any one time. The insurance was in date and expires on 27.03.2026.

### Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

#### Regulation 29 - Premises

*A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-*

- (a) of sound and stable structure,*
- (b) safe and secure,*
- (c) kept adequately lit, heated and ventilated*
- (d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and*
- (e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.*

#### Compliance Information

- (a) The building appeared to be of sound and stable structure both internally and externally and no obvious defects were noted on inspection.
- (b) The premises indoors and outdoors appeared safe and secured. A buzzer system on the entrance door ensured all who entered the premises were checked in by an authorised person.
- (c) All areas were well lit by natural light and by artificial light when needed. There was no evidence of stale smells or stuffiness, and all rooms were well ventilated.
- (d) All areas inside and outside were well maintained, and routine cleaning schedules were in place for all internal and external areas.
- (e) There were an adequate number of toilets, nappy changing areas and wash hand basins in the service for the number of children and adults present each day. A disability toilet was available if required.

#### Non-Compliance Information

- (d)
  1. The log cabin (Dolphin room) had evidence of water leaking into the structure with evidence of water marks in both children's toilets. There was also evidence of water ingress at the window in the toilet areas.
  2. The hand railing at the log cabin was rotting in places making the structure insecure and potentially leading to a breakage when being used.

#### Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

##### Corrective and Preventive Action

- (d)
  1. The windows where the water was evidently leaking has been sealed and will be monitored.
  2. The hand railing has been fixed.

## **Supporting documentation submitted**

1. The service has submitted planning permission that has been received to replace the log cabin with a permanent structure which when built will eliminate the need for the log cabin. A receipt for the maintenance work completed has been received.
2. A photograph has been received indicating that the handrail has been fixed.

## **Summary Comment**

The actions as stated by the registered provider address the non-compliance identified.

## **Part VIII - Notifications and Complaints**

### **Regulation 32 – Complaints**

- (1) A registered provider shall ensure that the complaints policy of the service specifies-*
- (a) the procedure to be followed by a person for the purposes of making a complaint in relation to the service,*
  - (b) the manner in which such a complaint shall be dealt with, and*
  - (c) the procedures for keeping a person who makes such a complaint informed of the manner in which it is being dealt with.*

## **Compliance Information**

- (1) (a) the service had a complaints policy that was followed in the case where a complaint was received by the service.
- (b) The policy outlined how the complaint would be dealt with.
- (c) The policy indicated how the complainant would be kept informed.