Tuarascáil Rialála Chigireacht na Luathbhlianta Réamhscoil

Uimhir Aitheantais TUSLA:	TU2015WD056

Ainm na Seirbhíse:	Naíonra na Rinne

Seoladh na Seirbhíse:	Halla Pobail, Maoil a' Chóirne, An Rinn, Dún Garbhán, Port Láirge.

Eirchód:	X35 XW29

Ainm an tSoláthraí Chláraithe:	Ray Mac Pháidin

Cineál na Seirbhíse	Seisiúnach

Dáta na Cigireachta:	23 Eanáir 2023

Líon na leanaí réamhscoile:	AM	17	PM	10

Seoladh Chigireacht na Luathbhlianta	An tIonad Cúraim Pobail, Foirgnimh Fheidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte, Bóthar Chorcaí, Cathair Phort Láirge.
Cigireacht arna déanamh ag:	M. Ryan
Teideal:	Cigire na Luathbhlianta

Údarás chun cigireacht a dhéanamh
Déanann Cigireacht na Luathbhlianta, Tusla cigireacht ar Sheirbhísí Luathbhlianta faoi Alt 58(J) den Acht um Chúram Leanaí, 1991 (arna chur isteach le hAlt 92 den Acht fán nGníomhaireacht um Leanaí agus an Teaghlach, 2013).

Coinníollacha, má bhaineann le hábhar	Ní bhaineann

Cur síos ar an tseirbhís

Is seirbhís sheisiúnach phobalbhunaithe atá ag oibriú ón mbliain 1972 i sráidbhaile na Rinne i nGaeltacht Chontae Phort Láirge í Naíonra na Rinne. Feidhmíonn an tseirbhís as ionad pobail an tsráidbhaile, áit a bhfuil seomra ar urlár na talún a saindearadh agus a saintógadh le haghaidh seirbhís luathbhlianta. Tá cead ag an Naíonra leas a bhaint as halla mór agus cistin an ionaid chomh maith. Tá gairdín na gcéadfaí leanbhláraithe ar fáil in aice le seomra na luathbhlianta. Reáchtáiltear dhá sheisiún sa tseirbhís, ceann amháin óna 08:45 go dtí 11:45 ar maidin agus an ceann eile óna 12:00 go dtí 15:00 san iarnóin, Luan go hAoine.

Soláthar foirne

Tá bainisteoir lánaimseartha fostaithe sa tseirbhís le 13 bliana anuas. Tá ball foirne amháin lánaimseartha um chúram leanaí agus coimeádaí tí/glantóir fostaithe sa tseirbhís chomh maith.

Modheolaíocht

Is í Cigireacht na Luathbhlianta, Tusla, rialtóir reachtúil neamhspleách ar sheirbhísí luathbhlianta in Éirinn. Sainmhínítear i Rialacháin an Achta um Chúram Leanaí 1991 (Seirbhísí Luathbhlianta) 2016 dualgas an tsoláthraí chláraithe sábháilteacht agus folláine leanaí a chinntiú agus cloí leis na riachtanais seo. Tugann an tAcht seo údarás do Tusla measúnú a dhéanamh ar chomhlíonadh leis na rialacháin. Is é is aidhm le rialáil maidir le seirbhísí óige ná a chinntiú go seastar le cúram, sábháilteacht, agus folláine na leanaí a fhreastalaíonn ar na seirbhísí seo. Pleanáiltear cigireachtaí ar sheirbhísí luathbhlianta bunaithe ar na pointí seo a leanas:

- Stair chigireachta na seirbhíse
- Eolas ar bith a fhaightear maidir leis an tseirbhís

Tá torthaí na cigireachta bunaithe ar:

- Eolas a fhaightear trí dhoiciméid a imscrúdú
- Breathnú díreach
- Plé le baill foirne ábhartha

Ba chigireacht gan choinne é seo, agus díríodh ar rialachas/sláinte, leas agus forbairt an linbh/sábháilteacht lena linn. Féadfaidh cigireachtaí díriú ar réimsí eile chomh maith, de réir mar is gá.

Ar chúiseanna na cigireachta seo, díríodh ar chomhlíonadh faoi na rialacháin seo a leanas: 9,10,11,17,19 agus 23.

Leagtar amach torthaí na cigireachta sa tuarascáil maidir leis an gcigireacht a eisítear mar dhréacht-tuarascáil ar dtús chuig an tseirbhís, agus bíonn deis ag an tseirbhís freagra a thabhairt ar thorthaí ar bith a luaitear inti. I gcás go sainaithnítear nach bhfuil ceanglais reachtúla á gcomhlíonadh, ní mór don soláthraí cláraithe léiriú a thabhairt ar an mbealach a réitíodh an neamhchomhlíonadh agus mar a chuirfear cosc ar an neamhchomhlíonadh amach anseo. Úsáidfear an plean um Ghníomh Ceartaitheach agus Gníomh Coisctheach (CAPA) chun bonn eolais a chur le cinntí maidir le comhlíonadh le ceanglais rialála. I gcás nach n-éiríonn leis an soláthraí cláraithe na ceanglais reachtúla a chomhlíonadh, féadfar próiseas géaraithe a thosú.

Forchoimeádann an Chigireacht an ceart chun eagarthóireacht a dhéanamh ar fhreagraí a fhaightear ar chúiseanna éagsúla lena n-áirítear soiléireacht; iomláine; agus chun próisis riaracháin agus dlíthiúla a chomhlíonadh.

Is í an Chigireacht a thiomsaíonn ábhar na tuarascála.

Buíochas

Is mian leis an gCigire buíochas a ghabháil leis an duine i bhfeighil, leis an bhfoireann agus leis na leanaí a bhí i láthair lá na cigireachta as a gcomhoibriú ar fad.

Cuid III – Bainistíocht agus Foireann
Rialachán 9 – Bainistíocht agus earcaíocht
(1) Cinnteoidh soláthraí cláraithe- *(a) go mbeidh sa tseirbhís duine i bhfeighil ainmnithe agus duine arna ainmniú nó arna hainmniú a bheidh ábalta gníomhú mar ionadaí de réir mar is gá,* *(b) go mbeidh an duine i bhfeighil ainmnithe nó an duine arna ainmniú nó arna hainmniú dá dtagraítear i bhfomhír (a) san áitreabh gach tráth le linn na tréimhse ina mbeidh an tseirbhís réamhscoile á seoladh, agus* *(c) go mbeidh sa tseirbhís struchtúr soiléir bainistíochta ina dtugtar sainaitheantas do na línte údaráis agus cuntasachta sa tseirbhís agus do róil shonracha agus do fhreagrachtaí sonracha gach fostaí agus gach oibrí nach n-íoctar.* *(2) Cinnteoidh soláthraí cláraithe gur duine oiriúnach inniúil gach fostaí, gach oibrí nach n-íoctar agus gach conraitheoir, agus cineál na riachtanas a bhíonn ar leanaí á chur san áireamh, lena n-áirítear trí na nithe seo a leanas a dhéanamh–* *(a) breithniú ar theistiméireacht ó fhostóirí an duine san am a caitheadh, más ann, agus go háirithe ar theistiméireacht ón bhfostóir is déanaí, más ann,* *(b) breithniú ar theistiméireachtaí ó fhoinsí iontaofa i gcás duine nach raibh aon fhostóirí air nó uirthi san am a caitheadh,* *(c) breithniú ar an nochtadh grinnfhiosrúcháin a fuarthas ó Bhiúró Náisiúnta Grinnfhiosrúcháin an Gharda Síochána de réir Acht 2012 i leith an duine, agus* *d) a chinntiú, a mhéid is indéanta, go soláthróidh duine, i gcás go raibh cónaí ar an duine i stát seachas an Stát ar feadh tréimhse ab fhaide ná 6 mhí as a chéile, grinnfhiosrúchán ag póilíní ó na húdaráis phóilíneachta sa stát sin.* *(4) Cinnteoidh soláthraí cláraithe, gan dochar do ghinearáltacht mhír (2) agus faoi réir mhíreanna (5) agus (6), go sealbhaíonn gach fostaí a bhíonn ag obair go díreach le leanaí a fhreastalaíonn ar an tseirbhís, mórdhámhachtain i gCúram agus Oideachas Luath-Óige ar Leibhéal 5 ar an gCreat Náisiúnta Cáilíochtaí nó cáilíocht a mheasfaidh an tAire a bheith coibhéiseach léi sin, ar a laghad.*
Faisnéis maidir le Comhlíonadh:
(1) (a) Ba í an bainisteoir an duine i bhfeighil ainmnithe. Bhí duine ainmnithe ag an tseirbhís freisin a bhí ábalta gníomhú mar ionadaí de réir mar is gá. (b) Bhí an bainisteoir san áitreabh an t-am ar fad i rith na cigireachta.

(c) Ba é Comhar Naíonraí ná Gaeltachta an soláthraí seirbhíse cláraithe agus bhí oifigigh forbartha acu i ngach ceann de na Gaeltachtaí a bhí i dteagmháil le bainisteoir agus coiste bainistíochta na seirbhíse. Bhí an struchtúr seo leagtha amach go soiléir agus mínithe go mion i lámhleabhar na dtuismitheoirí.

(2)

Níor tháinig aon athrú ar chúrsaí foirne ó bhí an chigireacht dheireanach ann. Fuarthas go raibh na comhaid foirne go léir comhlíontach nuair a rinneadh athbhreithniú orthu agus an chigireacht dheireanach ar siúl.

(4)

Bhí fianaise ann go raibh cáilíocht i gCúram agus Oideachas Luath-Óige go mórdhámhachtain Leibhéal 5 agus 6 ar a laghad ar an gCreat Náisiúnta Cáilíochtaí ag an mbeirt bhall foirne a bhí fostaithe chun oibriú go díreach leis na leanaí. Bhí fianaise ann go raibh forbairt ghairmiúil leanúnach ar siúl ag an bhfoireann agus bhí teastais cháilíochta ar comhad

Cuid III – Bainistíocht agus Foireann

Rialachán 10 - Beartais, Nósanna imeachta, etc. na seirbhíse réamhscoile

Áiritheoidh soláthraí cláraithe seirbhíse réamhscoile go bhfuil na beartais, na nósanna imeachta agus na ráitis i scríbhinn a shonraítear i Sceideal 5 i bhfeidhm don tseirbhís.

Faisnéis maidir le Comhlíonadh:

Bhí na beartais, nósanna imeachta agus ráitis ar fad a bhí ag teastáil faoi Sceideal 5 de Rialacháin an Achta um Chúram Leanaí, 1991 (Seirbhísí Luathbhlianta) 2016 ar fáil sa tseirbhís. Bhíothas tar éis na beartais agus na nósanna imeachta ar fad a uasdátú. Bhí leagan giorraithe de na beartais agus nósanna imeachta ar fáil sa lámhleabhar gonta sothuigthe do thuismitheoirí. Bhí an leabhar seo ar fáil i bhformáid dhátheangach, i nGaeilge agus i mBéarla.

Cuid III – Bainistíocht agus Foireann
Rialachán 11 - Leibhéil Foirne
(1) Faoi réir an Rialacháin seo, cinnteoidh soláthraí cláraithe go mbeidh gach tráth líon leordhóthanach de dhaoine fásta ag obair go díreach leis na leanaí a fhreastalaíonn ar an tseirbhís réamhscoile. *(3) Faoi réir alt (5), cinnteoidh soláthraí cláraithe seirbhíse réamhscoile seisiúnaí go gcomhlíonfar gach tráth an cóimheas íosta idir daoine fásta agus leanaí a shonraítear i gcolún (3) de Chuid 1 de Sceideal 6 os coinne uimhir thagartha áirithe a shonraítear i gcolún (1) den Chuid sin i leith raon aoise na leanaí a shonraítear i gcolún (2) den Chuid sin ag an uimhir thagartha sin.*
Faisnéis maidir le Comhlíonadh:
(1) I rith sheisiún na maidine ar lá na cigireachta, bhí 17 leanbh idir 3 agus 5 bliana d'aois faoi chúram beirt bhall foirne. I rith sheisiún na hiarnóna ar lá na cigireachta, bhí 10 leanbh idir 3 agus 5 bliana d'aois faoi chúram beirt bhall foirne. (3) Bhí an cóimheas idir baill foirne agus leanaí sa bhreis ar cheanglas na Rialacháin um Chúram Leanaí (seirbhísí luathbhlianta).

Cuid IV – Faisnéis agus Taifid
Rialachán 17 – Faisnéis do thuismitheoirí
Cinnteoidh soláthraí cláraithe go soláthrófar do thuismitheoir nó do chaomhnóir linbh a bheartaíonn freastal ar an tseirbhís an fhaisnéis dá dtagraítear i bhfomhíreanna (a) go (g) de Rialachán 16(1).
Faisnéis maidir le Comhlíonadh:
Bhí an fhaisnéis ar fad a bhí ag teastáil faoi Rialachán 16(1), fo-alt *(a)* go *(g)* do thuismitheoirí/caomhnóirí leanaí a bhí ag iarraidh freastal ar an tseirbhís, ar fáil go dátheangach (Gaeilge agus Béarla) i lámhleabhar na dtuismitheoirí nó ar an gclár fógraí ag an bpríomhdhoras, agus bhí grianghraif agus sonraí na mball foirne ar fáil do thuismitheoirí chomh maith. Chuir an fhoireann in iúl don chigire gur cuireadh an fhaisnéis seo ar fáil do thuismitheoirí agus a leanaí á gclárú sa Naíonra.

Cuid V - Cúram Linbh i Seirbhís Réamhscoile
Rialachán 19 - Sláinte, leas agus forbairt linbh
(1) Cinnteoidh soláthraí cláraithe, le linn dó nó di a bheith ag soláthar seirbhís réamhscoile— *(a) go ndéanfar foghlaim, forbairt agus leas gach linbh a urasú laistigh de shaol laethúil na seirbhíse réamhscoile trí na gníomhaíochtaí cuí, an idirghníomhaíocht chuí, na hábhair chuí agus an trealamh cuí a sholáthar, ag féachaint d'aois agus do chéim forbartha an linbh, agus*

Faisnéis maidir le Comhlíonadh:

CAIDRIMH THACAÍOCHTA MÓRTHIMPEALL AR NA LEANAÍ

Bhí atmaisféar deas cairdiúil agus gnóthach sa tseirbhís. Thug na baill chéanna foirne aire do na leanaí gach lá agus bhí an caidreamh idir na leanaí agus na daoine fásta seo deas réidh comhbhách. I rith am lóin, shuigh an fhoireann ag boird ísle agus d'ith siad a lóin ag an am céanna agus na leanaí. Labhair siad i nGaeilge faoin mbia a bhí á ithe ag na leanaí.

Chonacthas an fhoireann ag cur rudaí a tharla sa Naíonra i gcuimhne do na leanaí chun Gaeilge a spreagadh uathu. Thug an bainisteoir 'am cainte' ar an am seo agus cé gur fhreagair na leanaí i mBéarla, ba léir gur thuig siad an Ghaeilge.

Chas an fhoireann go neamhfhoirmiúil le tuismitheoirí agus caomhnóirí go laethúil ag na hamanna bailithe, agus chonacthas go raibh aiseolas ó bhéal á thabhairt maidir le heachtraí a tharla le linn lá an linbh sa tseirbhís réamhscoile. Úsáideadh grúpthéacsáil mar mhodh cumarsáide eile le tuismitheoirí, chomh maith le nótaí a chur abhaile leis na leanaí mar mheabhrúchán ar imeachtaí agus ceiliúradh ar bith a bhíonn le tarlú sa Naíonra.

Ba shoiléir go raibh spiorad dearfach foirne sa Naíonra agus léirigh an fhoireann go raibh aithne mhaith acu ar na leanaí agus go raibh siad eolach faoina n-imeachtaí teaghlaigh, rud a léirigh siad agus iad ag déanamh tagartha don bhalla teaghlaigh. Chonacthas go raibh teaghlaigh na mball foirne mar chuid den taispeántas seo chomh maith.

Thuairiscigh an bainisteoir go raibh go leor teaghlach nua tar éis bogadh isteach sa Ghaeltacht le linn thréimhse na paindéime, mar thoradh ar an gcianobair is dócha. Luaigh an bainisteoir freisin go raibh an Naíonra ar an gcéad chéim do theaghlaigh a raibh leanaí óga acu maidir le hiad féin a imeascadh sa phobal.

Bhí coiste tuismitheoirí ag an Naíonra a eagraítear gach Bealtaine don bhliain dár gcionn. Tháinig an coiste le chéile gach téarma; ba é an 7 Nollaig 2022 an cruinniú deireanach a bhí ann.

CLÁR GNÍOMHAÍOCHTAÍ AGUS A CHUR CHUN FEIDHME

Dhear Comhar Naíonraí na Gaeltachta clár na luathbhlianta a thacaíonn le luath-thumadh sa Ghaeilge i réamhscoileanna. Is clár é seo atá bunaithe ar fhéilte agus ar shéasúir, agus a chuireann béim ar leith ar fhorbairt teanga trí mheán na Gaeilge. Thug an t-oifigeach forbartha ó ghníomhaireacht tacaíochta na Naíonraí Gaeltachta tacaíocht leanúnach d'fhoireann na seirbhíse.

Ar lá na cigireachta, chonacthas na leanaí i mbun saorshúgartha. Bhí leabhar dialann foghlama ag gach leanbh ina raibh grianghraif agus roinnt samplaí d'obair na leanaí; bhí na leabhair seo ar fáil do thuismitheoirí ar a dtoil le linn na bliana. Bhí nótaí príomhbhreithnithe luaite iontu maidir le folláine, forbairt agus scileanna Gaeilge na leanaí ag deireadh gach téarma.

Bhí Naomh Bríd ina téama sa Naíonra ar lá na cigireachta agus gníomhaíochtaí do Lá Fhéile Bríde (1 Feabhra) faoi lán seoil, e.g. bhí crosóga Bhríde á ndéanamh as *papier mâché*, agus bhí beannacht Bhríde á foghlaim i nGaeilge ag na leanaí, chomh maith le roinnt traidisiún béaloidis a bhaineann leis an bhféile. Chuir an bainisteoir agus na baill foirne in iúl don chigire go raibh gaol ar leith ag an bparóiste le Naomh Bríd agus go ndearna siad ceiliúradh ar an lá sin i gcónaí, sula raibh sé ina lá saoire náisiúnta fiú.

Cuid VI - Sábháilteacht

Rialachán 23 - Sláinte, sábháilteacht agus leas linbh a chosaint

Cinnteoidh soláthraí cláraithe go ndéanfar gach beart réasúnach chun sláinte, sábháilteacht agus leas linbh réamhscoile a fhreastalaíonn ar an tseirbhís a chosaint agus cinnteoidh sé nó sí go mbeidh timpeallacht na seirbhíse sábháilte.

Faisnéis maidir le Comhlíonadh:

Sábháilteacht Ghinearálta

Ó bhí an chigireacht dheireanach ann, cuireadh fálú adhmaid timpeall ar an áit spraoi ghairbhéil lasmuigh chun é a dhéanamh slán sábháilte ón gcarrchlós. Leis sin, cinntíodh nach raibh rochtain ag na leanaí ar an gcarrchlós ná ar an mbóthar.

Rialú Ionfhabhtuithe

Tógadh bearta chun cosc a chur ar scaipeadh ionfhabhtaithe agus bhí póstaeir ar taispeáint ag gach ceann de na báisíní níocháin agus noda orthu maidir le níochán lámh. Chonacthas na leanaí i mbun a lámha a ní i ndiaidh an

leithris a úsáid agus a sróna a shéideadh. Bhí uisce te faoi rialú teirmeastatach, leacht gallúnaí agus tuáillí páipéir aon uaire ar fáil sa chóiríocht sláintíochta. Bhí aonad campála um níochán lámh ar fáil ag an mbealach isteach chun na seirbhíse cúraim leanaí, sa halla iontrála, agus chonacthas na leanaí ag baint taitneamh as a úsáide faoi mhaoirseacht foirne.

Bhí beartas doiciméadaithe ag an tseirbhís maidir le galair agus breoiteachtaí tógálacha a bhainistiú sa tseirbhís. Bhí prótacail do thuismitheoirí agus do bhaill foirne i gcás leanbh breoite leagtha amach sna beartais seo, chomh maith leis na tréimhsí iomchuí eisiaimh a mholtar i gcás breoiteachtaí éagsúla na hóige.

Bhí sceidil ghlantacháin laethúla agus seachtainiúla ag an bhfoireann maidir le bréagáin, troscán, leithris agus an seomra cúraim leanaí a ghlanadh. Tugadh faoi ghnáthamh domhainghlantacháin ag deireadh gach téarma. Bhí duine fostaithe ag an tseirbhís chun na dualgais seo amháin a dhéanamh.

Dáileadh Cógas:

Bhí beartas cógais ag an tseirbhís. Ní raibh cógas ar bith le riar sa tseirbhís ach amháin nuair a bhí tuismitheoirí an linbh tar éis foirm ceadaithe cógas a chomhlánú i scríbhinn. Thaispeáin na baill foirne taifid cógas sínithe don chigire agus sonraí luaite iontu maidir le cógas ar bith a tugadh do leanaí i gcomhréir le beartas na seirbhíse. Bhí na cógais go léir stóráilte go daingean as raon láimhe na leanaí.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report
Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015WD056

Name of Service:	Naíonra Na Rinne

Address of Service:	Halla Pobail, Maoil a' Chóirne, AN Rinn, Dún Garbhán, Waterford.

Eircode:	X35 XW29

Name of Registered Provider:	Ray Mac Phaidin

Service type:	Sessional

Date of Inspection:	23 January 2023

No of pre-school children:	AM	17	PM	10

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Community Care Centre, HSE Buildings, Cork Road, Waterford City.
Inspection undertaken by:	M. Ryan.
Title:	Early Years Inspector

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).

Conditions if applicable	Not applicable

Description of service

Naíonra Na Rinne is a community based sessional service in operation since 1972 in the Gaeltacht area, in the village of Ring in county Waterford. The service operates from a building, the community centre for the village, which contains a room purposely built and designed for an early years service, located on the ground floor. The Naíonra has the use of a large hall and kitchen in the centre. A child centered play and sensory garden is available adjacent to the early years room. The service operates two sessions that run from 08:45 to 11:45 hours in the morning and 12:00 to 15:00 hours in the afternoons, Monday to Friday.

Staffing

A fulltime manager is employed in the service for the last 13 years. The service also employs a fulltime childcare staff member and a housekeeper/cleaner.

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. The inspections may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9,10,11,17,19 and 23.

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 inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the person in charge, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

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.

(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 manager was the designated person in charge. The service also had a named person who was able to deputise as required.

(b) At all times during the inspection the manager was on the premises.

(c) Comhar Naíonraí ná Gealtachta was the registered service provider and had development officers in each of the Gealtacht regions who linked in with the manager and management committee of the service. This structure was clearly documented and explained in the parents handbook.

(2)

There was no change in the staff since the last inspection. All staff files were compliant on review at the last inspection.

(4)

There was evidence that both staff employed to work directly with the children held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 and 6 on the National Qualifications Framework. There was evidence of continuous professional development and qualification certificates on file

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 10 - Policies, procedures etc. of pre-school service

A registered provider of a pre-school service shall ensure that the written policies, procedures and statements specified in Schedule 5 are in place for the service.

Compliance Information

The service had all the policies, procedures and statements required under Schedule 5 of the Childcare act 1991 (early Years Services) Regulations 2016. All the policies and procedures had been updated. A condensed version of the policies and procedures was available in a concise user-friendly parent handbook. This book was available in a bilingual format of the Irish and English language.

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.

(3) Subject to paragraph (5), a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 2 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) therefore at that reference number is satisfied.

Compliance Information

(1)

In the morning session of the inspection there were 17 children 3 to 5 years of age being cared for by 2 staff.

In the afternoon session of the inspection there were 10 children, 3 to 5 years of age being cared for by 2 staff.

(3)

The staff: child ratios exceeded the requirement for the Childcare (early years services) regulations 2016.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 17 – Information for parents

A registered provider shall ensure that a parent or guardian of a child proposing to attend the service is provided with the information referred to in subparagraphs (a) to (g) of Regulation 16(1).

Compliance Information

All information required under Regulation 16(1), subparagraphs *(a)* to *(g)* for parents or guardians of children proposing to attend the service was available in the bi- lingual (Irish and English) parent handbook or on the main entrance notice board and included photographs and staff details. Staff informed the inspector that all parents or guardians were provided with this information on their child’s enrolment.

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

SUPPORTING RELATIONSHIPS AROUND CHILDREN

The atmosphere in the service was busy, pleasant, and friendly. The children were cared for by the same staff each day and the interactions between the children and staff were relaxed, familiar and caring. During the lunch time the staff sat at low level tables and ate lunch at the same time as the children and conversed in the Irish language about the food the children were eating.

Staff were observed recalling happenings in the Naíonra to encourage the children to use the Irish language. The manager referred to this as "talk time" while the children responded in English it was evident that they understood.

The staff met informally with parents and guardians daily at collection times and verbal feedback was observed being given on the child's day at the early years service. Group texting was used as a further means of communication with parents as well as notes for reminders sent home with the children, of upcoming events and celebrations in the Naíonra.

A positive team spirit was evident, and the staff demonstrated familiarity with all the children and their family events, as observed when referring to the family wall. It was observed that the staff had included their own families on this display.

The manager reported that many new families had moved into the Gaeltacht area over the pandemic period and was likely attributed to remote working. The manager also noted that the Naíonra was the first step for families with younger children to become integrated into the community.

The service had a parent committee formed each May for the following school year. The committee met each term, the last meeting was recorded as having taken place on the 7 December 2022.

PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES AND ITS IMPLEMENTATION.

The early years programme was designed by the agency Comhar Naíonraí na Gealtachta that supports early immersion of Irish in pre-schools. This programme was festival and seasonal based with emphasis on language development through the medium of Irish. Ongoing support was provided to the staff by the development officer from the Naíonra support agency for Gaeltacht areas.

On the day, children were observed at free play. Each child had a learning journal in which photographs and some examples of the child's work was compiled and was made available to parents if they so choose throughout the year. Key observations were recorded on each child's wellbeing, development, and integration with the Irish language, at the end of each term.

The theme of Bríd was evident in the activities being prepared for Lá Le Bríde (1 February) such as making papier mâché crosses, and children were learning a Naomh Bríd blessing in Irish, as well as some of the folklore traditions around this festival. The manager and staff informed the inspector that the parish had a particular affinity with Naomh Bríd and had always celebrated the day before it became a national holiday.

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:

Since the previous inspection, the graveled outdoor play area had been rendered safe and secure from the car park, by stable timber fencing. This ensured that the children could not have access to the car park and roadway.

Infection Control:

Steps were taken to prevent the spread of infection with posters that displayed prompts for hand washing at all wash hand basins. Hand washing was observed, with the children washing their hands after toileting and blowing their noses. Thermostatically controlled warm water, liquid hand soap and disposable paper hand towels were provided in all the sanitary areas. A mobile camping wash hand unit was available at the entrance to the childcare service, set up in the entrance hall, children were observed enjoying using this with staff supervision.

The Naíonra had a documented policy on managing infectious diseases and illness in the service. These policies outlined the protocols for parents and staff in the event of a child becoming sick, as well as the appropriate exclusion periods recommended for the various childhood illnesses. The staff attended to daily and weekly cleaning schedules for the toys, furniture, toilet areas and the childcare room. A deep cleaning routine was undertaken at the end of each term. The service had employed a staff member solely to carry out these household duties.
Administration of Medication: The service had a medication policy. Medications were only administered on the completion of a written medical consent form completed by the parents. The staff showed the inspector signed medication records, documenting the details of any medications which had been administered in the service in line with the service's policy. Medications were stored securely and inaccessible to children.