Tuarascáil Rialála Chigireacht na Luathbhlianta Réamhscoil

Uimhir Aitheantais TUSLA:	TU2015WD057

Ainm na Seirbhíse:	Naíonra an tSeanphobail

Seoladh na Seirbhíse:	Lios na Síog, An Seanphobal, Dún Garbhán, Co. Phort Láirge

Éirchód:	X35 CR20

Ainm an tSoláthraí Chláraithe:	Ray Mac Pháidín

Cineál na Seirbhíse	Seisiúnach

Dáta na Cigireachta:	29/05/2024

Líon na leanaí réamhscoile:	AM	7	PM	N/Bh

Seoladh Chigireacht na Luathbhlianta	Seirbhísí Pobail Phort Láirge, Bóthar Chorcaí, Port 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

Tá Naíonra an tSeanphobail lonnaithe sa Ghaeltacht, thart ar 10km ó Dhún Gharbhán i gCo. Phort Láirge. Is seirbhís Naíonra sheisiúnach neamhbhrabúis é atá faoi threoir Chomhar Naíonraí na Gaeltachta. Tá cistin lónadóireachta san fhoirgneamh, chomh maith le háiseanna leithris do leanaí agus do dhaoine fásta, dhá sheomra cúraim leanaí agus dhá spás spraoi lasmuigh. Feidhmíonn an Naíonra óna 9:00 go dtí 12:00 gach lá Luan go hAoine agus déantar freastal ann ar leanaí idir 2 bhliain agus 8 mí agus 5 bliana d'aois.

Soláthar foirne

Tá beirt oibrí cúraim leanaí fostaithe sa tseirbhís.

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 neamhfhógartha é seo, agus díríodh ar rialachas/sláinte, folláine agus forbairt an linbh/sábháilteacht/áitreabh agus saoráidí lena linn. Rinneadh cigireacht ar na rialacháin seo a leanas.

Rialachán 9 – Bainistíocht agus earcaíocht

Rialachán 11 - Leibhéil Foirne

Rialachán 19 - Sláinte, leas agus forbairt linbh

Rialachán 23 - Sláinte, sábháilteacht agus leas linbh a chosaint

Rialachán 25 - Garchabhair

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 chuireann an tuarascáil le chéile.

Buíochas

Ba mhaith leis an gcigire buíochas a ghabháil leis an duine i bhfeighil, leis an bhfoireann agus leis na leanaí a bhí i láthair ar lá na cigireachta as a gcomhoibriú.

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,

(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 é an ceannaire réamhscoile an duine ainmnithe i bhfeighil. Bhí duine eile ainmnithe a bheadh ábalta gníomhú mar ionadaí de réir mar is gá.

(b) I rith na cigireachta ar fad, bhí an ceannaire réamhscoile san áitreabh.

(c) Is é Comhar Naíonraí na Gaeltachta an soláthraí seirbhíse agus bhí oifigigh forbartha aige i ngach ceann de na Gaeltachtaí a bhíonn i dteagmháil le ceannaire na réamhscoile agus coiste bainistíochta na seirbhíse. Bhí an struchtúr seo leagtha amach agus mínithe go soiléir i lámhleabhar na dtuismitheoirí.

(2)

Níor tháinig aon athrú ar chúrsaí foirne ón gcigireacht dheireanach.

(c) Bhí athnuachan déanta ar nochtadh grinnfhiosrúcháin an Gharda Síochána le 36 mí anuas, thar ceann na foirne go léir.

(4)

Bhí fianaise ann go raibh mórdhámhachtain i gCúram agus Oideachas na Luath-Óige ag Leibhéal 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 ar fhorbairt ghairmiúil leanúnach agus teastais cháilíochta ar comhad.

Faisnéis maidir le Neamhchomhlíonadh

2(a) Ní raibh teistiméireacht foirne amháin ar fáil i gcomhad duine amháin de na baill foirne.

(d) Bhí grinnfhiosrúchán póilíní le haghaidh duine fásta amháin a bhí tar éis cónaí lasmuigh den dlínse ar feadh tréimhse ní b'fhaide ná sé mhí as a chéile fós in easnamh ó bhí an chigireacht dheireanach ann. Rinne an cigire teagmháil leis an oifigeach forbartha ábhartha de chuid Chomhar Naíonraí na Gaeltachta ar an 5 Bealtaine 2024. Cuireadh in iúl don chigire go ndearnadh iarrachtaí teagmháil a dhéanamh le hambasáid na dlínse ábhartha ach nach raibh maith ar bith ann. D'iarr an cigire fianaise air seo.

Gníomh Ceartaitheach & Gníomh Coisctheach arna seoladh isteach ag an Soláthraí Cláraithe

Gníomh Ceartaitheach agus Coisctheach

(2)

(a) Luaigh an soláthraí cláraithe sa fhreagra ar an 5 Iúil 2024 go raibh an dara teistiméireacht curtha ar fáil ag an bhfostaí.

(d) Luaigh an soláthraí cláraithe sa fhreagra ar an 5 Iúil 2024 gur sheol Comhar Naíonraí na Gaeltachta agus an fostaí roinnt ríomhphost chuig an ambasáid ábhartha chun grinnfhiosrúchán póilíní a fháil, agus nach raibh aon fhreagra faighte acu. Bhí an fostaí i dteagmháil freisin leis an bhfostóir roimhe sin sa dlínse i gceist chun cúnamh a fháil uathu ach níor éirigh léi. Tá iarrachtaí á ndéanamh ar bhonn leanúnach teagmháil a dhéanamh leis an ambasáid i gceist ó thosaigh an fostaí ag obair le Comhar Naíonraí na Gaeltachta.

Doiciméid tacaíochta arna gcur isteach

Chuir an soláthraí cláraithe na doiciméid seo a leanas isteach ar an 5 Iúil 2024 mar fhianaise ar na gníomhartha ceartaitheacha is gá:

(2)

(a) Cóip de theistiméireacht eile an fhostaí.

(d)Cuir Comhar Naíonraí na Gaeltachta litir ar fáil ag cur síos ar na hiarrachtaí a rinne an fostaí agus Comhar Naíonraí na Gaeltachta chun an grinnfhiosrúchán póilíní ón dlínse eile a fháil.

Nóta Tráchta Achomair

Ba chuí an fhianaise a cuireadh isteach ar an 5 Iúil 2024 chun aghaidh a thabhairt ar na neamhchomhlíontachtaí ar Rialachán 9(2).

Léirigh an soláthraí cláraithe nach raibh beart praiticiúil nár triaileadh agus nach féidir grinnfhiosrúchán póilíní a fháil ón dlínse atá i gceist.

Mar sin, tá na ceanglais faoi Rialachán 9(2)(a) agus (d) do Rialacháin an Achta um Chúram Leanaí 1991 (Seirbhísí Luathbhlianta) 2016 comhlíonta anois.

Cuid III – Bainistíocht agus Foireann
Rialachán 11 - Leibhéil Foirne
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) Bhí 7 leanbh idir 3 agus 5 bliana d'aois faoi chúram 2 duine fásta. (3) Bhí an cóimheas idir daoine fásta agus leanaí sa bhreis ar na ceanglais maidir le cúram seisiúnach a theastaíonn faoi Rialacháin an Achta um Chúram Leanaí 1991 (Seirbhísí Luathbhlianta) 2016.

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:
(1)(a) Rinneadh measúnú ar Rialachán 19 trí bhreathnóireacht dhíreach, athbhreithniú ar thaifid agus plé leis an bhfoireann. Tugadh an méid seo a leanas faoi deara maidir le freastal ar chúram leanaí agus an clár gníomhaíochtaí. Ba é an ghníomhaireacht Comhar Naíonraí na Gaeltachta a thacaíonn le luath-thumadh sa Ghaeilge i naíonraí a dhear clár na réamhscoile. Bhí an clár seo bunaithe ar fhéilte agus ar na séasúir agus béim á cur ar fhorbairt teanga trí mheán na Gaeilge. Thug an t-oifigeach forbartha ó ghníomhaireacht tacaíochta na Naíonraí sa Ghaeltacht tacaíocht leanúnach don fhoireann.

Mhínigh an bainisteoir réamhscoile gur curaclam éiritheach bunaithe ar spraoi a bhí i gclár réamhscolaíochta Naíonra an tSeanphobail lenar tugadh isteach an Ghaeilge de réir a chéile trí athrá agus cluichí. Tugadh faoi deara gur labhair an fhoireann réamhscoile i nGaeilge i gcónaí leis na páistí; don chuid ba mhó d'fhreagair na páistí i mBéarla ach ba léir gur thuig siad an chumarsáid.

Tógadh an t-áitreabh mar fhoirgneamh éighníomhach grianfhuinnimh le fuinneoga móra ar an taobh ó dheas a ghlacann solas na gréine ar feadh an lae agus a dhéanann na seomraí teolaí te go nádúrtha. Bhí an-chuid acmhainní ag an suíomh cúram leanaí seo agus bhí troscán, trealamh agus bréagáin ar ardchaighdeán ar fáil gan srian ar na seilfeanna a raibh rochtain ag na leanaí orthu.
Rinneadh pleanáil chúramach ar an seomra an-mhór seo chun tacú le réimsí spéise speisialta na leanaí. Ina measc siúd bhí: siopa agus an-chuid rudaí ann agus limistéar tógála ina raibh uirlisí do leanaí agus binse oibre. Bhí spás ar leith ann do spraoi salach agus bhí seastáin ealaíne agus péint uiscebhunaithe ar fáil i gcoimeádáin chaidéil ann ionas go bhféadfadh na leanaí a gcuid dathanna a roghnú go neamhspleách. Bhí tráidire gainimh agus umar uisce agus uisce reatha ag teacht chuige ann le haghaidh spraoi uisce. Bhí na rudaí seo ar fáil i gcuid den seomra a raibh clúdach urláir neamhsciorrach ann agus bibí uiscedhíonacha ar fáil do na leanaí.

Bhí spás léitheoireachta sa seomra agus cairpéad ann, mar aon le taispeántas de leabhair Ghaeilge a bhí oiriúnach d'aois na leanaí. Bhí cistin sa chúinne baile agus go leor bréagáin chócaireachta ann, agus bhí 'seomra codlata' ann ina raibh bábóga, cliabháin, pramanna agus leaba do leanaí. Chonacthas leanaí i mbun cur i gcéill sa chúinne seo, ag gléasadh suas leis an raon leathan éadaí gléasadh suas a bhí ar fáil ann, ag ligean orthu gur 'mamaí' nó 'daidí' iad.

Tugadh isteach aistrithe sa ghnáthamh laethúil go deas réidh trí úsáid a bhaint as amhráin agus rannta Gaeilge faoi lámha a ní agus nuair a bhí an tralaí leis na sneaiceanna ag teacht. Ghlac gach leanbh a seal ag tabhairt amach boscaí lóin agus ainm an fhaighteora á athrá i rann.

Dúirt an ceannaire go mbíonn tréimhsí rialta spraoi lasmuigh ag na leanaí le linn an lae. Tar éis lóin, caitheadh an chuid eile den am sa chlós spraoi in aice leis an seomra spraoi áit ar breathnaíodh na leanaí ag baint taitneamh as an tsaoirse gluaiseachta agus as na deiseanna a bhí acu an trealamh mór gníomhaíochta a bhí ar fáil dóibh a úsáid. Bhí deiseanna eile spraoi lasmuigh ar thailte na seirbhíse, e.g. an carrchlós tarmacadam le haghaidh trealamh marcaíochta, agus bhí trachanna gainimh, cistin láibe agus tollán saileach le haghaidh cluichí folach bíog ar fáil sa limistéar féarach.

Bhí forbhreathnú doiciméadaithe ar fáil ar an bplean bliantúil, bhain téamaí an phlean seo leis na séasúir agus na féilte Ceilteacha.

Chuir an ceannaire in iúl go raibh dialann foghlama ag gach leanbh ina raibh grianghraif agus roinnt samplaí d'obair an linbh curtha le chéile agus a bheadh á cur ar fáil do thuismitheoirí ag deireadh na bliana. Bhí príomhbhreithnithe ar fholláine, ar fhorbairt agus ar chomhtháthú gach linbh leis an nGaeilge á dtaifeadadh iontu ag deireadh gach téarma.

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:

Ghlac an tseirbhís na bearta seo a leanas chun sláinte, sábháilteacht agus leas na leanaí a chosaint:

SÁBHÁILTEACHT GHINEARÁLTA:

Bhí córas slándála eochairchip ag an doras isteach chun cosc a chur ar dhaoine neamhúdaraithe teacht isteach agus chun a chinntiú nach n-éalódh leanbh réamhscoile gan mhaoirsiú. Bhí fál idir an suíomh ar fad agus an bóthar agus bhí geataí móra miotail ag an mbealach isteach.

Bhí na hoibreáin ghlantacháin go léir stóráilte i gcófra ard sa chistin agus i stóras glantacháin ar leith ina raibh na hábhair faoi ghlas i gcófraí. Bhí rialú teirmeastatach ar gach téitheoir agus ar an uisce te a bhí ar fáil do leanaí. Bhí sciath mhéara feistithe ar gach doras tine trom ar fud an fhoirgnimh a raibh rochtain ag na leanaí orthu.

Faisnéis maidir le Neamhchomhlíonadh

Sábháilteacht Ghinearálta:

Bhí doirse dúbailte ón bpríomhsheomra spraoi ag oscailt amach ar chosán a bhí ag dul timpeall an fhoirgnimh. Ón gcosán, bhí geata isteach chuig an áit spraoi a raibh fál sreinge daingean ardleibhéil mórthimpeall uirthi. Ionas go mbeadh rochtain gan srian ag na leanaí ón seomra spraoi laistigh go dtí an timpeallacht lasmuigh, fágadh na doirse agus an geata seo ar oscailt. Ní raibh aon gheata sábháilteachta buan amach ón gcosán, áfach, lena chinntiú nach raibh rochtain ag leanaí ar an gcarrchlós agus ar an mbóthar ina dhiaidh sin.

Gníomh arna sheoladh isteach ag an Soláthraí Cláraithe

Gníomh Ceartaitheach agus Gníomh Coisctheach

Dúirt an soláthraí cláraithe sa fhreagra dar dáta an 5 Iúil 2024 go raibh geata nua ar crochadh.

Doiciméid tacaíochta arna gcur isteach

Cuireadh fianaise ghrianghrafadóireachta faoi bhráid na Cigireachta ar an 5 Iúil 2024 chun a dheimhniú go raibh geata nua curtha isteach chun a chinntiú nach raibh rochtain ag leanaí ar an gcarrchlós ná ar an mbóthar ina dhiaidh sin agus iad ag aistriú ón seomra réamhscoile go dtí an clós spraoi lasmuigh.

Nóta Tráchta Achomair

Bhí an fhianaise a cuireadh isteach ar an 5 Iúil 2024 sásúil chun aghaidh a thabhairt ar na neamhchomhlíontachtaí faoi Rialachán 23 - sláinte, sábháilteacht agus leas an linbh a chosaint, déanfar cur i bhfeidhm an ghnímh seo a athbhreithniú mar chuid den chéad chigireacht eile.

Mar sin, táthar tar éis na ceanglais do Rialacháin an Achta um Chúram Leanaí 1991 (Seirbhísí Luathbhlianta) 2016 a chomhlíonadh.

Cuid VI - Sábháilteacht

Rialachán 25 - Garchabhair

(1) Cinnteoidh soláthraí cláraithe go mbeidh duine atá oilte ar gharchabhair do leanaí ar fáil láithreach i gcónaí do na leanaí a fhreastalaíonn ar an tseirbhís réamhscoil.

(2) Cinnteoidh soláthraí cláraithe go mbeidh bosca garchabhrach do leanaí a bhfuil an trealamh cuí ann—

(a) stóráilte go sábháilte in áit fheiceálach san áitreabh ar féidir teacht air gan dua, agus

(b) ar fáil i gcónaí do na leanaí a fhreastalaíonn ar an tseirbhís réamhscoile.

Faisnéis maidir le Comhlíonadh:

(1)

Bhí oiliúint reatha ar Fhreagróir Garchabhrach (FAR) do leanaí déanta ag ball foirne amháin

(2)

(a) Bhí mála garchabhrach stóráilte ar sheilf ard san oifig agus bhí teacht éasca air.

(b) Bhí an mála garchabhrach feistithe go hiomchuí agus ar fáil lena úsáid.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report
Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015WD057
Name of Service:	Naíonra Na Tsean Phobail
Address of Service:	Lios na Síog, An Sean Phobal, Dún Garbhán, Co. Waterford
Eircode:	X35 CR20
Name of Registered Provider:	Ray Mac Pháidín
Service type:	Sessional
Date of Inspection:	29/05/2024

No of pre-school children:	AM	7	PM	N/A

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Waterford Community Services, Cork Road, Waterford
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

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Description of service

Naíonra Na Tsean Phobail is in a Gaeltacht area approximately 10 kilometers from Dungarvan town in Co Waterford. This is non-for profit sessional 'Naíonra' service under the guidance of Comhar Naíonraí na Gaeltachta. The building has a catering kitchen, toilet facilities for children and adults, two childcare rooms and two outdoor play spaces. The Naíonra is operational from 09:00hrs to 12:00hrs daily Monday to Friday, for children aged 2 and 8 months to 5 years.

Staffing

There are two childcare workers employed in the service.

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 following regulations were inspected.

Regulation 9 – Management and recruitment
Regulation 11 - Staffing levels
Regulation 19 - Health, welfare and development of child
Regulation 23 - Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child
Regulation 25 - First aid

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,

(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 pre-school leader 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 pre-school leader was on the premises.

(c) Comhar Naíonraí na Gaeltachta was the service provider and had development officers in each of the Gaeltacht regions who linked in with the pre-school leader 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.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures had been renewed in the last 36 months, on behalf of all staff.

(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 6 on the National Qualifications Framework. There was evidence of continuous professional development and qualification certificates on file.

Non-Compliance Information

2(a) One staff reference was not available on one staff file.

(d) Police vetting continued to be unavailable since the last inspection for a staff member who had resided outside of the jurisdiction for a period of longer than six consecutive months. The inspector contacted the relevant Comhar Naíonraí na Gaeltachta development officer on 5 May 2024. The inspector was informed that attempts had been made to contact the embassy of the relevant jurisdiction but to no avail. The inspector requested evidence of this.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(2)

(a)The registered provider stated in the response on 5th July 2024 that the employee has provided a second reference.

(d) The registered provider stated in the response on 5th July 2024 that Comhar Naíonraí na Gaeltachta and the employee had sent a number of emails to the relevant embassy to obtain police vetting, and had not received any response. The employee had also contacted the previous employer in the jurisdiction in question for assistance with no success. These attempts to contact the relevant embassy have been ongoing since the employee began employment with Comhar Naíonraí na Gaeltachta .

Supporting documentation submitted

The registered provider submitted the following documentation on 5th July 2024 as evidence for the corrective actions required:

(2)

(a)A copy the employee's second reference.

(d)Comhar Naíonraí na Gaeltachta provided a letter explaining the attempts that have been made by the employee and Comhar Naíonraí na Gaeltachta to obtain this police vetting required from outside the jurisdiction.

Summary Comment

Evidence submitted on 5 July 2024 was appropriate to address the non- compliances of Regulation 9 (2).

The registered provider demonstrated that all practical measures have been exhausted and that the police vetting cannot be obtained from the jurisdiction in question.

Therefore, the requirements under Regulation 9(2)(a) and (d) for the Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 have been met.

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) There were 7 children aged 3 to 5 years of age being cared for by 2 staff (3) The staff: child ratios exceeded the requirements for sessional care needed under the Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016.

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,*
Compliance Information
(1)(a) Regulation 19 was assessed through direct observation, review of records and discussion with staff. The following was observed in relation to meeting children's care and programme of activities. The pre-school programme was designed by the agency Comhar Naíonraí na Gaeltachta 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.

The pre-school manager explained that Naíonra na tSean Phobail pre-school programme was an emergent play-based curriculum delivered with the gradual introduction of the Irish language through repetition and games. The pre-school staff were observed speaking in Irish at all times to the children, for the most part the children responded in English but clearly understood the communication.

The premises was solar passive in construction with large south facing windows that captured daylong sunshine and made the rooms naturally warm and cosy. This childcare setting was exceptionally well resourced with quality childcare furniture, equipment and toys freely available on child accessible shelving.
This extra-large room was carefully planned to support the special areas of interest for the children. Some of these included; A well-stocked shop and a construction area had children's tools and a workbench. A messy play area with painting easels and water-based paint available in pump containers for children to choose their colours independently. A sand tray and a plumbed water trough for water play was confined to a section of the room that had nonslip floor covering and supplies of waterproof bibs.

A carpeted reading area with a display of accessible age-appropriate books in the Irish language. The home corner had a kitchen area with plenty of toys for cooking and a bedroom area supplied with dolls, cots, prams and a child sized bed. Children were observed at pretend play in this area dressing up with the large supplies of dress up clothing playing mammie's and daddies.

Transitions in the daily routine were gently introduced through the use of Irish songs and rhymes about washing hands and bringing the trolly with the snacks, each child took turns in giving out lunch boxes while the recipient's name was repeated in a rhyme.

The leader stated that the children's day comprised of regular periods of outdoor play. After lunch the remainder of the time was spent in the playground adjacent to the playroom where children were observed enjoying the freedom of movement and opportunities with the large activity equipment available to them. Other outdoor opportunities on the grounds of service were the use of the tarmacadam car park area for ride on equipment, the grassed area had sand play troughs, mud kitchen, and a willow tunnel for hide and seek games.
There was a documented overview of the yearly plan available, this was themed for the seasons and Celtic festivals.

The leader informed that 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 at the year end. Key observations were recorded on each child's wellbeing, development, and integration with the Irish language, at the end of each term.

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

The service had taken the following measures to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of children attending:

GENERAL SAFETY:

The entrance door had a keypad security system for entry into the service to prevent unauthorised access by a person or the unsupervised exiting of a child. The entire site was fenced off from the road, with large metal gates at the entrance.

All cleaning agents were stored in a high press in the kitchen and in a separate cleaning storeroom in which materials were locked in cupboards. All heaters and warm water available to children was thermostatically controlled. There were finger guards fitted to all heavy fire doors accessible to children throughout the building.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

The main playroom had double doors that opened on to a path which surrounded the building. From the path, a gate opened into a play area secured with high level wire fencing. For children to have seamless access from the indoor playroom to the outdoor environment these doors and gate were left open. However, off the path there was no permanent safety gate to ensure that children had restricted access to the carpark and subsequently the road.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider
Corrective & Preventive Action
The registered provider stated in the response on 5 July 2024 that a new gate has been hung. **Supporting documentation submitted** Photographic evidence was submitted to the Inspectorate on 5 July 2024 to confirm that a new gate had been installed which ensured that children had no access to the carpark and subsequently the road when transitioning from the pre-school room to the outdoor play enclosure.
Summary Comment
Evidence submitted on 5 July 2024 was appropriate to address the non- compliances under Regulation 23 - safeguarding health, safety and welfare of the child, the implementation of this action will be reviewed on the next inspection. Therefore, the requirements for the Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 have been met.

Part VI - Safety
Regulation 25 - First aid
(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a person trained in first aid for children is, at all times, immediately available to the children attending the pre-school service. *(2) A registered provider shall ensure that a suitably equipped first aid box for children-* *(a) is safely stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position on the premises, and* *(b) is available to the children attending the pre-school service at all times.*
Compliance Information
(1) One staff member had current First Aid Responder training for children. (2) (a) There was a first aid bag stored on a high shelf in the office that was easily accessible. (b) The first aid bag was suitably equipped and available.