

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

School Age Services

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2019CW003SA
Name of School Age Service:	New Oak/Askea Afterschool, Carlow Regional Youth Service
Name of Registered Provider(s):	Kathryn Wall
Address of School Age Service:	Browneshill Road, Co. Carlow.
Eircode:	R93 X793

Dates of Inspection:	23 April 2024			
Number of school age children present during inspection:	AM	Non-Applicable	PM	12
Registration status:	Registered			
Conditions (if applicable):	Not Applicable			

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate	Primary Care Centre, Castle Park, Arklow, Co. Wicklow
Inspection undertaken by:	L O' Connor
Title:	Early Years Inspector

Authority to Inspect
Tusla's 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).

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report School Age Services

Description of Service:

New Oak/Askea Afterschool, Carlow Regional Youth Service is located on the outskirts of Carlow town. It caters for 20 children aged 4 to 12 years old. The service operates from a prefabricated building which is located on the grounds of a primary school. There is one care room provided with an adjoining sanitary area for the children. The service operates from 2pm to 6.45pm Monday to Friday for 46 weeks of the year.

The children have access to an outdoor area which is located close to the service.

Staffing:

There are six adults employed within the service, including the registered provider.

On the day of inspection, there were five adults working directly with the children, including the person in charge and area manager. A student was also present during the inspection.

Additional Information:

The inspector conducted a planned focused inspection of the service.

Legislation

Tusla's Early Years Inspectorate is the independent statutory regulator of School Age Services in Ireland, and its role is to promote and monitor the safety and quality of school age care provision in accordance with the following legislation:

- The Child and Family Agency Act 2013, Part 12.
- Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) (Registration of School Age Services) (Amendment) Regulations 2022.
- The Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Registration of School Age Services Regulations 2018 (S.I. 575 of 2018).

A school age service means any early years service, play group, day nursery, crèche, day-care or other similar service which:

- caters for children under the age of 15 years enrolled in a school providing primary or post-primary education,
- provides a range of activities that are developmental, educational and recreational in manner, which take place outside of school hours, the primary purpose of which is to care for children where their parents are unavailable, and
- the basis for access to which is made publicly known to the parents and guardians of the children referred to in point (a) above.

It is the responsibility of a registered provider to ensure the safety and well-being of school age children and the above legislation authorises Tusla to assess compliance with the Regulations.

Inspection Methodology:

The inspection is unannounced to assess compliance with the Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Registration of School Age Services Regulations 2018 (S.I. 575 of 2018), Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) (Registration of School Age Services) (Amendment) Regulations 2022, and the Child Care Act 1991, Section 58 as amended by Part 12 of the Child and Family Agency Act, 2013.

The findings on inspection are gathered through a triangulation method, including:

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

This inspection aims to determine the extent to which service is appropriate for the care, safety, and wellbeing of children in accordance with the regulations cited above.

Inspection findings are documented in the School Age Services 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 corrected the non-compliance and how they will prevent them 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 CAPA 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.

Acknowledgements:

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

Summary of Findings:

On inspection, the registered provider was found to be compliant in relation to the following:

- Regulation 8 (1) (a)(b)(c): Vetting disclosures;
- Regulation 9 (1) (2) (4): Staffing levels;
- Regulation 12: Insurance.

The registered provider was found to be non-compliant in relation to the following:

- Regulation 8 (1)(d) (2): Vetting disclosures;

Conclusion and follow-up actions:

The non-compliance identified has been addressed by the service and there are no follow up actions.

Regulation 8: Vetting disclosures

(1) A registered provider of a school age service other than a childminding service 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.

(2) The procedures specified in paragraph 1 shall be carried out prior to any person being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the school age service.

Regulatory Requirement Met

(1) (a) (b) (c)

Seven files were reviewed on the day of inspection. The required Garda Vetting disclosures and validated references were available for review for the seven adults.

Regulatory Requirement not met

(1) (d)

Police Vetting was required for one adult, and it was not available on the day of inspection. It is noted the service submitted the required police vetting on 12 June 2024.

(2)

It was demonstrated the required documentation was in place prior to six of the seven adults being appointed. However, the required procedures were not carried out for one adult as Police Vetting was not available prior to the adult being appointed to work directly with the children.

Corrective & Preventive Action Response submitted by the Registered Provider

(1)(d)

International Police Vetting has been secured in respect of the staff member who lived abroad and submitted to the Inspectorate on the 12 June 2024.

(2) All staff files will be revised on an annual basis to ensure that the required documents are held.

Summary of Findings

The non-compliance under Regulation 8: Vetting disclosure has been addressed by the registered provider.

Regulation 9: Staffing levels

(1) Subject to this Regulation, a registered provider of a school age service other than a childminding service shall ensure that there is at all times an adequate number of competent and suitable adults on the premises while the service is operating.

(2) Without prejudice to paragraph (1), a registered provider of a school age service other than a childminding service shall ensure that there is a minimum ratio of 1 adult to 12 children at all times while the service is operating.

(4) A registered provider of a school age service shall ensure that the school age children attending the service are appropriately supervised at all times.

Regulatory Requirement Met

(1)(2)(4)

The adult to child ratio was maintained throughout the inspection. On the day, there was 12 children present with 5 adults in the service.

The children were appropriately supervised throughout the inspection.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report School Age Services

Regulation 12: Insurance
<i>A registered provider shall ensure that the school age service is adequately insured.</i>
Regulatory Requirement Met
The service was insured for 20 children to attend at any one time.