



ROWANTREE HOUSE INSPECTION OUTCOME

Report by Head of Children's Services and Chief Social Work Officer

PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of the Report is to inform members of the outcome of a recent Care Inspectorate inspection of Rowantree House.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 This was a short notice announced inspection which took place between 7 October 2023 and 9 October 2023.
- 2.2 In evaluating quality, the Care Inspectorate use a six-point scale where 1 is unsatisfactory and 6 is excellent The Service was rated **Very Good** for how well it supports children and young people's rights and wellbeing?

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 **It is recommended that the Comhairle note the outcome of the Care Inspectorate inspection of Rowantree House.**

Contact Officer: Jack Libby, Head of Children's Services
Appendix: Rowantree House Inspection Outcome
Background Papers:

IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The following implications are applicable in terms of the Report.

Resource Implications	Implications/None
Financial	None
Legal	None
Staffing	None
Assets and Property	None
Strategic Implications	Implications/None
Risk	None
Equalities/Child Rights	None
Corporate Strategy	Safeguarding the most vulnerable in our community.
Environmental Impact	None
Consultation	None

BACKGROUND

- 5.1 Rowantree House provides residential short break care to young people, aged between zero to 18 years. The service provider is Comhairle Nan Eilean Siar. The service can provide a care service to a maximum of one child at a time.

DETAIL

- 6.1 The service operates from a single storey building in a quiet residential area in Balivanich on the Isle of Benbecula. There is a lounge, large kitchen/dining area, two bedrooms that can be used by staff if necessary and one ensuite bedroom for the use of young people. The property benefits from an enclosed garden and is close to local amenities, including a play park and supermarket.
- 6.2 The Care Inspectorate found significant strengths in all aspects of the care provided and how these supported positive outcomes for children and young people, therefore they evaluated this key question as very good. This reflects the individually tailored and high-quality support received by young people using the service.
- 6.3 Key finding from the inspection are:
- Children and young people were kept physically and emotionally safe throughout their stay.
 - Children and young people benefit from the loving and attuned care from a skilled staff team.
 - Children and young people benefit from meticulous planning that prioritises their wellbeing and health.
 - The staff team skilfully make use of a range of aids and techniques to support communication with young people.
 - Young people benefit from an individually tailored and highly bespoke service.
- 6.4 The service values young people's connections with family, friends and the wider community. Communication between the staff team and the young person's family is seen as a key element of the support the service provides. Family members advised that this allows them to relax and recharge during short break periods, confident in the knowledge that their young person was happy and well cared for.

CONCLUSION

- 7.1 This Report should offer reassurance to Members that children and families in receipt of the short-break respite services on Uist and Barra receive a high standard of care and protection.