

Caveat Brief

To: Minister for Early Childhood Development
Subject: CECA — Emergency Action taken at Gold Creek World of Learning
Date: 31 March 2023

Noted / Please Discuss

Yvette Berry MLA /...../.....

Background

On 23, 28 and 29 March 2023 the Provider notified Children’s Education and Care Assurance (CECA) of three instances of inappropriate conduct by educators towards children at Gold Creek World of Learning (GCWoL).

CCTV footage was provided for one incident and CECA is awaiting footage of the other incidents.

One incident was witnessed by the acting director, who took no action.

The Provider is investigating the incidents but has not suspended the educators.

CECA is currently investigating incidents of inappropriate discipline, harm to children, inadequate supervision.

Issues

On the basis of the evidence to date, CECA determined that the Service is operating in a matter that poses or is likely to pose an immediate risk to the safety, health of wellbeing of children.


On 31 March 2023, CECA issued two Emergency Action Notices (EANs) to the Provider. The first notice requires the Provider to produce their risk assessment and management of two specific educators in relation to their conduct with children. The provider has five days to respond.

The second notice requires the provider to provide their risk assessment and management plan in response to the incidents already known by the provider to ensure appropriate interactions with children, and the expectations upon staff members in their interactions with children as well as staffing in rooms. The provider has seven days to respond.

Next steps

CECA conducted a risk audit at GCWoL on 14 March 2023 regarding staffing levels. Another risk audit is scheduled for the morning of 4 April 2023.

CECA is investigating the incidents of harm resulting from a complaint and a notification. The other incidents will be triaged and may also be subject to investigation.

Signatory Name: Sean Moysey, 
Title Executive Branch Manager, ECRS, Education Directorate
Date 31 March 2023