

Camphill Scotland



Quality Assessments of  
The Camphill Communities

Research Briefing for  
Parents and Carers

## Rationale for the Research

Camphill Scotland has committed itself to a five year programme (2010-2014) both to strengthen the base of research evidence about the Camphill Communities in Scotland and to disseminate such findings so that the Communities may have objective evidence about the quality of their work. The focus of this Briefing is the comparative standing of the Communities in the Scottish care sector in terms of the Care Inspectorate gradings. These gradings are important both as independent assessments of quality and as the public currency by which commissioning and other decisions are made. The Communities have their own additional definitions of quality and the relationship between these and official definitions will be the subject of further research.

## Research Design

The twelve Communities have twenty five registrations with the Care Inspectorate in terms of seven types of service. These registrations are each assessed on four Quality Criteria: Care and Support; Environment; Staffing; Management and Leadership. Gradings range from 1 (Unsatisfactory) to 6 (Excellent). The Camphill gradings were compared statistically with those of a random sample of 250 service providers weighted to reflect the services offered by the Communities. Each service sampled was classified in terms of its organisational type: Camphill; Other Charities; Local Authority; Commercial.

## Key Findings

- The pattern of gradings between different types of organisation is statistically significant.
- Charities as a whole have higher gradings than other organisations with Camphill having the highest gradings of all on all four Quality Criteria.
- Camphill achieved higher gradings than other charities in terms of Environment, Staffing and Leadership and Management. These differences were statistically significant.

There is a clear gradient in the gradings awarded. Camphill scored highest with average gradings of 5.12 in Care and Support, 4.95 in Environment, 5.08 in Staffing and 4.96 in Management and Leadership (where a grading of 5 is 'Very Good'). After Camphill come other Charities followed by Local Authority services and then Commercial services. Only one Camphill grading out of the ninety-four awarded was, at 3 ('Adequate'), less than 'Good'. Four of the twenty five Camphill registrations were graded as 'Excellent' across all assessed Quality Criteria, an exceptional achievement.

The particular strengths of Camphill, as assessed, lie in its creation of therapeutic Environments and in its particular Staffing and Management and Leadership models. These may, in part, be attributed to the education provided by the BA in Social Pedagogy. These strengths differentiated Camphill from other Charities and from the other organisational types.

## Key Implications

- Parents and carers may be reassured that scrutiny by the Care Inspectorate shows the Camphill Communities to be offering services of the highest quality nationally.
- The Care and Support provided by the Communities are very good.
- The distinctive Environments, Staffing and Leadership models of the Communities underpin this quality of service and are sector leading.

The Care Inspectorate clearly recognises and values the distinctive nature of the Care and Support provided by Camphill Communities. This supports many of the observations made by parents and carers. Communities also received particularly high ratings in the field of the Environment and of Staffing and Leadership and Management. This is a very welcome finding. It encourages all those concerned with Camphill to express confidence in its distinctive approach to creating therapeutic environments and curative human relations through its co-worker training including the BA in Social Pedagogy.

## Further Information

A copy of the full Research Report may be downloaded from [www.camphillscotland.org.uk](http://www.camphillscotland.org.uk)

Questions about the research may be addressed to [research@camphillscotland.org.uk](mailto:research@camphillscotland.org.uk)