

Birchwood Highland Recovery Centre, supporting people locally with mental ill health, received all sixes (the highest rating available in a scale of 1-6) in a formal review and assessment carried out by the Care Commission recently.

The Care Commission as independent regulators for the Scottish Government ensure that organisations such as Birchwood Highland provide the best possible care services, working to the national care standards. They look for evidence of continuous improvement, service user and carer involvement in the delivery of services and the achievement of high standards in all areas of care. The areas assessed at the Recovery Centre by the Care Commission were the quality of: care and support, environment, staffing and management and leadership.

The Recovery Centre, officially opened by Shona Robison MSP, Minister for Public Health in March 2008, is the first mental health recovery centre in the Highlands and only the second in Scotland.

Staff and service users at the Recovery Centre were delighted by the results, which were also warmly welcomed by Birchwood Highland's Chief Executive, Peter Cattanach as "formal recognition of the excellent work that staff do on a daily basis. These 'excellent' ratings are also in line with the sixes awarded to each of Birchwood Highland's housing support services in Inverness, Easter Ross, Lochaber and Caithness earlier this year and the Board of Directors are extremely proud of all that our staff and service users across the company have achieved and continue to do so to be graded at this high level."

Notes for Editors:

Birchwood Highland is a charity dedicated to the support and care of some of the Highlands' most vulnerable adults and young people.

Our mission is to improve the quality of life of people with mental health issues and complex needs by promoting recovery, inclusion and independence.

We work with individuals to help them to manage their difficulties, recover, and lead the best lives possible with friends, jobs and families.

Birchwood Highland Recovery Centre – the former Birchwood House was built in 1994 to provide nursing and residential care to former residents of Craig Dunain Hospital. Starting in 2007, Birchwood House underwent major renovations transforming it into a modern mental health recovery centre –renamed Birchwood Highland Recovery Centre. The Recovery Centre was officially opened in March 2008 by Shona Robison MSP, Minister for Public Health. The Recovery Centre provides accommodation for up to 23 people in single rooms, studio apartments and self contained flats. It is based in Muirfield Lane, Inverness.

We provide residential and outreach support covering Lochaber, Inverness, Easter Ross and Caithness. Photographs from the service can be provided on request to accompany any article.

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Care Commission's website: www.carecommission.com