

Aspire - Woodend Farm School Care Accommodation Service

Dyke Farm
Symington
Kilmarnock
KA1 5PN

Telephone: 01563 830 092

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
1 September 2023

Service provided by:
Aspire Scotland Ltd

Service provider number:
SP2010011131

Service no:
CS2016348976

About the service

Woodend Farm provides school care accommodation for up to five young people and is situated in a rural location close to Ayr and Kilmarnock. The service is run by Aspris Children's Services; who also provide their own educational resource, Radio City, based in Kilbirnie.

Woodend Farm comprises of five bedrooms, three with en-suites, two sitting rooms, a large dining kitchen and staff office areas.

A feature of Woodend Farm are the animals that are kept on the grounds; staff and young people care for and tend to ducks.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on 21 August 2023 between 11:00 and 21:00 and 24 August 2023 between 10:30 and 16:00. The inspection was carried out by one inspector from the Care Inspectorate.

To prepare for the inspection we reviewed information about this service. This included previous inspection findings, registration information, information submitted by the service and intelligence gathered since the last inspection.

In making our evaluations of the service we:

- Spoke with three young people using the service and one of their family. Three also completed our questionnaire.
- Spoke with 11 staff and management and nine completed our questionnaire.
- Observed practice and daily life.
- Reviewed documents.
- Spoke with one visiting professional.

Key messages

- Young people were thriving in Woodend Farm.
- Young people had been kept safe.
- Young people had very good access to external professionals including advocacy.
- The staff team was consistent and well trained.
- Young people were given a very good level of support to build and maintain relationships with the people that were important to them.

From this inspection we evaluated this service as:

In evaluating quality, we use a six point scale where 1 is unsatisfactory and 6 is excellent

How well do we support children and young people's rights and wellbeing?	5 - Very Good
--------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------

Further details on the particular areas inspected are provided at the end of this report.

How well do we support children and young people's rights and wellbeing?

5 - Very Good

We found significant strengths in aspects of the care provided and how these supported positive outcomes for children and young people, therefore we evaluated this key question as very good.

Young people were thriving in Woodend Farm. They had been kept safe by a consistent, well-trained and well supported staff team. The young people all told us they felt safe and one said "it's a brilliant place to live". The staff knew the young people well and worked hard to build relationships and help the young people develop their skills. This reduced risks, however, when risks did occur, the staff were trauma-informed and worked well with other professionals.

Young people benefited from having access to other professionals regularly and the staff in Woodend were pro-active in ensuring young people had access to advocacy, their social workers and health professionals. An external professional told us that the service had made sure the young people had advocacy workers which made sure their voice was being heard.

Children and young people experienced therapeutic and stable care, which actively reduced the likelihood and incidence of restraint. On the few occasions this did occur, it followed best practice and young people's rights were upheld.

Children and young people enjoyed warm, trusting, and nurturing relationships with those caring for them. We saw warm, loving and tactile interactions and one young person said "I feel like the staff know me well" and they felt cared for. The staff made great efforts to spend time with the young people, doing things they enjoyed. This included horse riding, looking after animals and they put on a festival so young people could show off their music talents. These were fun ways to support relationships and build resilience.

Children and young people's physical and mental health was given the priority which reflected their importance as a pre-requisite to making the most out of life. All of the young people had access to the health professionals they required, and the staff were pro-active in making appropriate referrals and pursuing these until the young people's health needs were met.

Connections to family, brothers and sisters, friends and the community were championed and fostered where this was in children and young people's best interests. A lot of thought was given by the staff in how they supported young people with these connections and there was clear evidence of young people's identity and wellbeing benefiting from these relationships.

Children and young people received individually tailored support to participate fully in learning and maximise attainment and attendance. Going to, or taking part in preparation for, school was the norm and young people had also been supported to make excellent achievements out with school.

Children and young people were engaged in their care and support and the staff actively sought their views about all aspects of life. Through the support from staff and advocacy workers the young people could participate meaningfully and easily in all decisions affecting them. The service had plans to update their care plans so that they could be more accessible for all young people, and we look forward to seeing the impact of this at the next inspection.

Complaints

There have been no complaints upheld since the last inspection. Details of any older upheld complaints are published at www.careinspectorate.com.

Detailed evaluations

How well do we support children and young people's rights and wellbeing?	5 - Very Good
7.1 Children and young people are safe, feel loved and get the most out of life	5 - Very Good

To find out more

This inspection report is published by the Care Inspectorate. You can download this report and others from our website.

Care services in Scotland cannot operate unless they are registered with the Care Inspectorate. We inspect, award grades and help services to improve. We also investigate complaints about care services and can take action when things aren't good enough.

Please get in touch with us if you would like more information or have any concerns about a care service.

You can also read more about our work online at www.careinspectorate.com

Contact us

Care Inspectorate
Compass House
11 Riverside Drive
Dundee
DD1 4NY

enquiries@careinspectorate.com

0345 600 9527

Find us on Facebook

Twitter: @careinspect

Other languages and formats

This report is available in other languages and formats on request.

Tha am foillseachadh seo ri fhaighinn ann an cruthannan is cànan eile ma nithear iartras.

অনুরোধসাপেক্ষে এই প্রকাশনাটি অন্য ফরম্যাট এবং অন্যান্য ভাষায় পাওয়া যায়।

یہ اشاعت درخواست کرنے پر دیگر شکلوں اور دیگر زبانوں میں فراہم کی جاسکتی ہے۔

ਬੇਨਤੀ 'ਤੇ ਇਹ ਪ੍ਰਕਾਸ਼ਨ ਹੋਰ ਰੂਪਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਹੋਰਨਾਂ ਭਾਸ਼ਾਵਾਂ ਵਿਚ ਉਪਲਬਧ ਹੈ।

هذه الوثيقة متوفرة بلغات ونماذج أخرى عند الطلب

本出版品有其他格式和其他語言備索。

Na życzenie niniejsza publikacja dostępna jest także w innych formatach oraz językach.