

Blairvadach Residential Home Care Home Service

Helensburgh

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
30 September 2025

Service provided by:
West Dunbartonshire Council

Service provider number:
SP2003003383

Service no:
CS2003000424

About the service

Blairvadach is a residential care home operated by West Dunbartonshire Council as part of their children and young people's services. It is registered to provide care and support to a maximum of 6 young people.

The house is situated in a quiet, semi-rural village, close to the main town of Helensburgh. It benefits from beautiful Lochside views and is a very short walk to the main route for buses into town, where young people can access a range of shopping and leisure facilities and transport links. to further afield.

Blairvadach is built over one level and is set within its own large garden. There is a large communal living room and dining kitchen, and all the young people have their own bedrooms, with access to shared bathrooms. Externally there is a summer house and large spaces to play, enjoy the outdoors and store equipment.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on 29 September 2025 between 09:30 and 18:30. The inspection was carried out by one inspector from the Care Inspectorate.

This was a pilot inspection to test a new way of inspection to provide assurance that better performing services continue to deliver a very high quality level of care and support. No new evaluations (grades) have been awarded. This inspection is called a promise assurance inspection. It focuses on the key areas that are essential to upholding children and young people's right to be safe and be at the centre of their care. We report on them under the Promise foundation headings of: 'Voice', 'Care', and 'People'.

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

We confirmed that the service continued to provide a very high quality level of care and support. We know this because on this inspection we:

- Met all young people living in the service and spoke in depth with four of them.
- Spoke with four members of staff and management.
- Observed practice and daily life.
- Reviewed documents.
- Gained feedback from professional partners external to the service.

Key messages

Voice:

Young people's voices were at the heart of all aspects of life in Blairvadach. The caring adults formed nurturing, committed and enduring relationships with young people and advocated passionately on their behalf to ensure they experienced inclusion, acceptance and opportunities. As adults prioritised young people, taking the time they needed to trust, young people felt valued and respected, supporting them to openly share their views. Care and support was highly individualised and genuinely centred around young people's needs, preferences and aspirations. Young people told us, 'people listen to me and I'm thriving'.

Care:

The team at Blairvadach skilfully provided compassionate, relational care that was shaped and paced in a way that respected young people's experiences. As a result, young people felt safe and loved. The team were adept at carefully and creatively constructing opportunities for young people to have fun, and experience new things. The compassionate containment that the team offered led to young people learning from their choices without fear of judgement, and created opportunities for them to more safely navigate their world. Young people were experts in their plan and expressed a sense of ownership. One person told us, 'this is my plan, it tells my story, describes what I need and supports me to do well'.

People:

The dedicated, experienced and knowledgeable staff team who were well trained and supported by passionate leaders, all shared the primary goal of giving young people the best authentic care possible. They understood the impact of trauma in young people's lives and were constantly striving to engage young people to reach their potential. The service aspired to continually develop and meaningfully evaluated young people's experiences to drive the positive culture of improvement. Young people felt claimed and told us, 'these are my people - absolutely everyone is great'. The team worked effectively and assertively with professional partners to ensure young people had what they needed from everyone involved in their care. One professional told us, 'the team are confident, committed and communicate well. They always act in the best interest of my young person'.

Complaints

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

To find out more

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