

Foxhill Cottage Care Home Service

Mauchline

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
19 January 2026

Service provided by:
Spark of Genius (Training) Ltd

Service provider number:
SP2006008009

Service no:
CS2025000373

About the service

Foxhill Cottage is registered as a care home for children and young people. The service is registered to care for a maximum of five young people. The nearby Chestnut Cottage provides accommodation for a further one young person.

The service is provided by Spark of Genius (Training) Ltd and operates a 24-hour service 52 weeks of the year.

Foxhill Cottage is a detached property set within an attractive rural setting in Stair, Ayrshire. The property offers spacious accommodation, including two bedrooms with en suite bathrooms, a further three bedrooms, a communal bathroom, a staff/visitors bathroom, a large kitchen with dining space, and two lounge areas.

At the time of the inspection, there were four young people living in Foxhill Cottage and a young person living in Chestnut Cottage.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on 13 of January 2026 between 10:30 and 20:30 and 14 January 2026 between 08:30 and 18:30. 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 two people using the service and one of their family members. One further family member responded to a survey prior to the inspection. Where young people were unable to communicate with us we carried out observations of practice and interactions with staff
- spoke with seven staff and management and had survey responses from additional staff members prior to the inspection
- observed practice and daily life
- reviewed documents
- visiting professionals completed survey responses prior to the inspection.

Key messages

- Young people experienced improved emotional wellbeing through consistent and nurturing care.
- Effective risk management and multi-agency working helped young people stay safe, both at home and in the community.
- Young people felt valued and included, influencing decisions, personalising their spaces, and contributing to staff recruitment. This approach was consistent with The Promise.
- Leadership and quality assurance promoted stable, trauma-informed, outcomes-focused care that supported young people's progress.
- To continue supporting the confidence and development of staff, the service should consistently utilise reflective and learning spaces.

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?	4 - Good
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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?

4 - Good

Quality indicator 7.1 was graded as very good, where there was significant strengths in aspects of the care provided and how these supported positive outcomes for people. Quality indicator 7.2 was graded as good, where several strengths impacted positively on outcomes and clearly outweighed areas for improvement. This resulted in an overall grade of good.

Young people at were supported by team who created physical and emotional safety through consistency, nurture, and compassion. A calm environment was prioritised in the evenings, which allowed young people to relax before bed. Staff offered reassurance and comfort when it was required, supporting young people's emotional wellbeing.

Staff supported young people to develop their skills around emotional regulation, which allowed them to better communicate their needs and feelings. Risk was well assessed within the service and clear details were recorded on strategies that worked for young people.

The service worked well with multi-agency partners to ensure young people's safety. The service should ensure all young people have an allocated advocate who can offer support at pivotal times.

Child protection and safeguarding concerns had been responded effectively by the service, ensuring young people were protected from harm. The organisation planned to develop more face-to-face training to promote further confidence in relation to child protection.

Staff promoted an environment that was inclusive and nurturing. These values meant that staff were naturally aware of situations that may create increased distress for young people. There was a focus on relationship-based practice and de-escalation, which promoted the use of alternatives to restraint.

Young people experienced spontaneity and fun, which contributed to positive emotional wellbeing and resilience. This was supported by an approach that valued structure and routine but recognised the need for flexibility within this.

Young people's voices were at the centre of the care provided at Foxhill Cottage. This meant young people felt respected and heard by those who looked after them. Young people's bedrooms had been decorated to a high standard in a way that young people wanted. This meant that these were safe spaces that young people really valued.

Staff engaged young people creatively in their care and support. The team ensured that multi-agency teams always received effective communication regarding young people. This meant that young people, where possible, could participate meaningfully and easily in decisions affecting them.

Young people's health was a priority for the service. The service had strongly advocated for young people where they needed further assessment or review in relation to their physical or mental health and promptly dealt with any health concerns when young people arrived in the service.

Family time was often supported or facilitated by the staff team, which contributed to positive relationships with families. This ensured young people felt that their identity and those important to them were prioritised and promoted.

Children and young people had lots of activities they attended on a weekly basis and interests were promoted through activities during the weekends and school holidays. Most young people attended school as part of their daily routines, which contributed to young people's wellbeing. Young people valued their attendance at school and their attainment.

All young people had outcomes-focused plans, which had been contributed to by them. The scaffolding young people required to support them was clear and guided staff well, ensuring all young people's care was person-centred.

Leaders promoted a culture which was empowering and supportive. Leaders knew young people well and were involved in promoting the right care to support the best possible outcomes. There was recognition from managers that the team is relatively new and it will take time to embed the ethos of the service.

The service had undertaken assessments to ensure transitions were free, as far as possible, from distress to promote the best possible outcomes. Some suggestions were made to strengthen these assessments to best ensure that all needs, risk, and vulnerabilities were considered when these assessments were taking place.

The service has worked hard to recruit a staff team from a value-based approached to promote stability and security for young people. All staff were consistently and safely recruited. Children and young people were actively involved in the recruiting of new staff members, which promoted and valued voices.

Many of the staff team were relatively new in post and were developing their knowledge and skills. The service had a plan in place to further develop and embed trauma-informed practice. To assist this, the service should ensure that all opportunities for learning, support, and reflection are consistently utilised, promoted, and evidenced (see area for improvement 1).

There were regular audits carried out in the service by managers, which considered young people's experiences and the setting, as well as practice of the team. This picked up on any practice related concerns and addressed these quickly. The service had a quality improvement plan, which was regularly reviewed. This could be further strengthen by ensuring it followed a SMART (specific, measurable, attainable, relevant, and time-bound) approach. The service regularly reviewed how they were meeting The Promise, which contributed to positive outcomes for young people.

Areas for improvement

1. To ensure all staff are individually equipped and supported to successfully meet all the needs of children and young people, the service should ensure that they consistently utilise reflective and supportive forums to promote skills, knowledge, and confidence.

This includes, but is not limited to, debriefs after significant incidents and effective inductions for all new staff.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which state that: 'I experience high quality care and support based on relevant evidence, guidance, and best practice' (HSCS 4.11).

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?	4 - Good
7.1 Children and young people are safe, feel loved and get the most out of life	5 - Very Good
7.2 Leaders and staff have the capacity and resources to meet and champion children and young people's needs and rights	4 - Good

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