

Ember Cottage Care Home Service

Bridge of Weir

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
22 January 2026

Service provided by:
Todays Tomorrow Ltd

Service provider number:
SP2021000128

Service no:
CS2024000088

About the service

Today's Tomorrow Ltd is an independent provider of residential and educational services for children and young people.

Ember Cottage is a residential care home for children and young people. The house is located on the outskirts of Bridge of Weir, Renfrewshire. The house is a spacious two storey property, able to accommodate up to four children and young people. There is a private enclosed garden.

The house was at full occupancy during this inspection.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on 12 & 13 January 2026 between the hours of 10.45 & 20.45pm. 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 young people using the service and spent time with in the company of two others.
- Spoke with five members of staff and management.
- Observed practice and daily life.
- Reviewed documents.
- Received feedback from visiting professionals.

Key messages

- Relationships with children and young people were based on compassion, trust and respect.
- Advocacy supports were available to all children and young people.
- The service promoted children and young people's resilience.
- Therapeutic play supported children to express themselves.
- Attending education was the norm.
- Personal plans had improved.
- Safer recruitment practices had improved.

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
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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?

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.

Relationships with children and young people were based on compassion, understanding and commitment to listening to their voices and responding to their needs and wishes. They were nurtured to experience feelings of safety and security, by a staff team who were centred on their care.

Trusting relationships likewise, enabled young people to speak with staff when they needed support, knowing that they could do this in a way that would reassure them and that they were listened to and respected. This practice further evidenced the important connections with staff who cared deeply about their safety and wellbeing.

Children and young people had opportunities to speak with adults external to the house, each having advocacy support. Those who chose to utilise this, spent time with those workers who provided additional reassurance that their voice would be heard, when reaching decisions affecting their care.

In respect of the children and young people's past experiences, the manager and staff team were both mindful of reducing further trauma and skilled in supporting resilience and adaptability. During periods of difficulty for young people, the service provided support with empathy and understanding about the likely reasons for behaviours, and helped young people to regain a level of control. For the younger children, the importance of consistent positive routines, simple communication and opportunities for emotional expression through therapeutic play, was evidenced in approaches to their care.

Daily education featured currently for almost all children and young people. While children attended school daily, other young people's school environment had been re-assessed to suit their current needs. The provider worked with partners to ensure alternative learning opportunities were put in place. Young people who demonstrated success in sustaining their education, had built up their attendance over time and had optimised the opportunities to benefit from rich experiences in a supported setting.

Learning through play, within the house, where resources were in plentiful supply, meant that age appropriate toys and games enabled children to be creative and learn to problem solve, increasing their sense of enjoyment and achievement. There was acknowledgement that for other young people, that the use of technology was more suited to their interests.

Personal plans and supporting information were comprehensive and this meant that all staff were fully informed of important information, young people's goals and ambitions and evidence of how young people felt their plan should be progressed. We acknowledged that plans were a work in progress and will continue to support the provider's improvement agenda.

What the service has done to meet any areas for improvement we made at or since the last inspection

Areas for improvement

Previous area for improvement 1

To ensure that personal plans detailing children and young people's care and support is easily accessible to them as individuals, the provider should improve upon existing plans. This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which state: 'My personal plan (sometimes referred to as a care plan) is right for me because it sets out how my needs will be met, as well as my wishes and choices'. (HSCS, 1.15)

This area for improvement was made on 10 April 2025.

Action taken since then

Aspects of development with regard to personal plans and improved accessibility for children and young people had been explored and taken forward. We were satisfied that the provider continues to prioritise this work.

This area for improvement was met.

Previous area for improvement 2

To ensure the safety and wellbeing of children and young people, the provider should improve upon existing safer recruitment practices. This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which state: 'I am confident that people who support and care for me have been appropriately and safely recruited'. (HSCS, 4.24)

This area for improvement was made on 10 April 2025.

Action taken since then

We reviewed staff recruitment records and advised of further minor action, to improve upon existing practices. We were satisfied with progress.

This area for improvement was met.

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
7.2 Leaders and staff have the capacity and resources to meet and champion children and young people's needs and rights	5 - Very Good

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