

Duneaton Care Home Service

Biggar

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
26 February 2026

Service provided by:
Common Thread Ltd

Service provider number:
SP2005007437

Service no:
CS2015336900

About the service

Duneaton is a care home service registered for up to five children and young people. The premises consist of three houses sharing the same grounds, each with outdoor space.

The 'house' can accommodate up to two young people. Young people have their own bedroom and there is also a kitchen with conservatory, bathroom, an additional living room with conservatory and a staff office used for sleepovers.

The 'lodge' can accommodate up to two young people. Young people have their own bedroom and there is an open plan living, dining and kitchen, a bathroom, and a staff office used for sleepovers.

The 'cottage' accommodates one young person who has their own bedroom, as well as a living room, kitchen, bathroom, and a staff office which is used for sleepovers.

At the time of this inspection there were two young people living within the service, in separate houses.

The service is in a rural location in South Lanarkshire, and is close to the M74. Lanark, a larger town with a range of facilities and amenities is about 19 miles away.

The service is part of the Common Thread Group, an independent provider of residential childcare.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on 24 February 2026 between 10:30 and 18:00.

The inspection was carried out by two inspectors 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 two of their family members
- spoke with four staff and management
- observed practice and daily life
- reviewed documents
- spoke with visiting professionals

Key messages

- The service has prioritised relationship building between the existing staff team and young people, with positive outcomes for young people as a result of these strengthened relationships
- As no new young people have moved to live in the service, it was not possible to fully evaluate whether a previous requirement relating to admissions and matching has been met and this will be continued.
- The previous requirement made in relation to staffing has been met.

What the service has done to meet any requirements we made at or since the last inspection

Requirements

Requirement 1

By 1 December 2025, the provider must ensure that their admissions procedures are effective to keep young people safe and promote their wellbeing. This should include but not be limited to:

- a) The assessment which will take place prior to a referral being accepted detailing how the service will meet young people's needs and details of how reviews of the assessment will take place. This should include a consideration of young people's educational and health needs.
- b) The assessment which will take place to ensure that staff have the specific skills and training to meet individual needs and support identified risks if the referral is accepted.
- c) The assessment which will take place when considering referrals to identify the current risks in the service at the time, the needs within individual houses and the service as a whole, and the impact on other young people should the referral be accepted.

This is in order to comply with Regulations 4(1)(a) and 9(2)(b) of The Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland (Requirements for Care Services) Regulations 2011 (SSI 2011/210) and section 8 of the Health and Care (Staffing) (Scotland) Act 2019.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which state that:

'I am supported and cared for sensitively by people who anticipate issues and are aware of and plan for any known vulnerability or frailty.' (HSCS 3.18)

This requirement was made on 12 November 2025.

Action taken on previous requirement

- 1) The provider took the decision not to admit any further young people in Duneaton as a protective measure until the service was stabilised. Whilst this approach has been welcomed, it has therefore not been possible to evaluate the outcome of any admissions since the inspection in October 2025.
- 2) In the meantime, the provider has reviewed referral and admissions processes and has identified some areas to be strengthened in relation to the pre-admission assessment of young people's needs, the assessment of staff skills and training and the assessment of current service risk and impact. Learning from this review has been incorporated into the documentation used when a young person is referred. The impact of these changes can not yet be evaluated.

It is not possible to assess the requirement as being fully met at this time, however we were reassured to see the approach that has been taken, including the decision to not have new young people move to the service until the staff team was stabilised. .

This will therefore be extended with a new timescale of **4 May 2026**.

Not met

Requirement 2

By 1 December 2025, the provider must ensure the safety of young people and staff by ensuring that staffing arrangements meet the needs of children and young people living in the service. In particular they must:

- a) Undertake a robust and comprehensive assessment of staffing needs, which determines how the needs of young people are going to be met.
- b) Implement the results of the staffing needs assessment.
- c) Ensure all external managers take account of this assessment whenever consideration is given to moving staff to other services, so that the assessment is not undermined.

This is in order to comply with Regulation 4(1)(a) of The Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland (Requirements for Care Services) Regulations 2011 (SSI 2011/210) and Section 7(1) of the Health and Care (Staffing) (Scotland) Act 2019.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which state that:

'My future care and support needs are anticipated as part of my assessment.' (HSCS 1.14)

This requirement was made on 12 November 2025.

Action taken on previous requirement

- 1) The service has a staffing needs assessment in place which dynamically assesses staffing need. This documentation could be more detailed, which has been recognised by the new manager of the service, who is in the process of developing a more detailed staffing needs assessment which incorporates discussion of the needs of the wider provider.

2) In the meantime, we heard from staff and young people that staffing arrangements were working smoothly, and that a relational approach was taken to staffing decisions. At key times of vulnerability additional staff have been brought into the service to support safety and wellbeing for young people and staff. This was directly related to improved outcomes and experiences for children and young people.

We therefore evaluated this requirement as having been met.

Met - within timescales

Complaints

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

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Care Inspectorate
Compass House
11 Riverside Drive
Dundee
DD1 4NY

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