

The Farmhouse Care Home Service

Stirling

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
13 February 2026

Service provided by:
Common Thread Ltd

Service provider number:
SP2005007437

Service no:
CS2016347124

About the service

The Farmhouse is a care home registered with the Care Inspectorate to care for up to two children and young people. The service is set in the countryside near the local city of Stirling. The provider of the service is Common Thread Ltd.

The home is a farmhouse cottage. Inside, it has two floors. Each young person has their own bedroom, and there are communal living areas, and space for staff to work and sleep.

At the time of our inspection, there were two young people living at The Farmhouse.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on 9 and 11 February 2026 between the hours of 10:00 and 16:45. 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:

- reviewed survey responses from six members of staff and two young people using the service
- spoke with one young person using the service
- spoke to one parent
- spoke with five members of staff and management
- observed practice and daily life
- spoke with one professional
- reviewed a range of documents.

Key messages

- Staff and management were enthusiastic and committed to promoting positive outcomes for young people.
- Young people's rights were upheld through access to independent advocacy.
- Family relationships were promoted and supported well by the service.
- Changes in staffing had impacted consistency of relationships.
- Education was well supported and achievements were celebrated.

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

We evaluated this key question as good where several strengths impacted positively on outcomes for children/people and clearly outweighed areas for improvement.

Young people told us they felt safe. Staff were knowledgeable and understood each young person's needs. Clear behaviour support plans ensured that staff provided a consistent approach to keeping each young person safe.

All young people had access to independent advocacy which ensured that young people's views were represented and plans happened at the right time and pace. This meant that young people's rights were upheld.

Young people benefitted from skilled staff who were committed and demonstrated a good understanding of therapeutic caring approaches. This created a nurturing, trauma responsive culture that helped young people to feel safe and loved. One staff member told us, "You can see how much the team cares for the young people and wants what's best for them."

Staffing changes had impacted the consistency of relationships for young people. At the time of the inspection, the staffing situation had improved and there was a stable staff team. Young people benefitted from close and trusting relationships with some staff, whilst relationships with newer staff were still embedding.

Staff and professionals told us there was a homely feel to the house. The service had undergone some improvements, at the time of the inspection and one young person told us, "It's just been repaired and there's new furniture too so it's looking good." There were plans for further upgrades and repairs to the house including much needed repairs to the road to improve accessibility. Young people were involved in decisions through regular meetings which ensured they were included and respected.

Young people's health needs were proactively identified, and appropriate referrals were made to ensure young people received the right support. The service had a good medication practice with effective quality assurance.

Meaningful family connections were given high importance and supported well by the service. Professional told us "Staff go above and beyond" in supporting families. This resulted in improved outcomes with family relationships being nurtured and strengthened.

Education was valued and young people's achievements were celebrated. Young people were supported with further education and employment opportunities. This meant that young people's ambitions, interests and life skills were promoted. One parent told us, "It's been amazing to see them reach their potential."

Clear care planning and risk assessments were in place which ensured children and young people's needs were met. Staff engaged young people to set and review goals to monitor progress. Some staff lacked confidence with updating records and we found that the process could be more streamlined. We heard that the service had reviewed this and there was a plan in place for improvements.

The service improvement plan was in draft form at the time of the inspection. It was Promise focussed and there was evidence of plans to review it with young people to ensure their views and wishes were represented.

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 support children's protection and safety, the provider should ensure that the child and adult protection policy and procedure is updated. This should include, but is not limited to, a clear procedure which is consistent with the policy and national guidance.

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

'I am protected from harm, neglect, abuse, bullying and exploitation by people who have a clear understanding of their responsibilities' (HSCS 3.20).

This area for improvement was made on 9 May 2024.

Action taken since then

The provider has updated the child and adult protection policy and procedure.

This area for improvement has been met.

Previous area for improvement 2

To support children's wellbeing and safety, the provider should ensure when considering admissions the service can meet the needs of the young people. This should include, but not limited to, ensuring staff are trained and there is the right level of staffing.

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

'I am in the right place to experience the care and support I need and want' (HSCS 1.20).

This area for improvement was made on 9 May 2024.

Action taken since then

With no new admissions since the last inspection this has not been tested, however, this area has clearly been strengthened. There was sufficient evidence during the inspection of appropriate staffing levels, and flexibility to meet current young people's changing needs. Most staff were trained and experienced. Their individual skills and strengths were considered in the staffing needs assessment. The provider's therapeutic coordinator was working proactively with the service to support any training and development gaps.

This area for improvement has been 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?	4 - Good
7.1 Children and young people are safe, feel loved and get the most out of life	4 - Good

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