

Aspris - Dovecote Hall Cottage School Care Accommodation Service

Doura (Lochlibo Road)
Irvine
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Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
29 January 2026

Service provided by:
Aspris Scotland Ltd

Service provider number:
SP2010011131

Service no:
CS2013318904

About the service

Dovecote Hall Cottage forms part of the service provided by Aspris Children's Services.

The service is registered as a school care accommodation service providing support to children and young people, aged 8 - 18 years of age.

The service is situated within a rural setting in the Ayrshire countryside. The service offers accommodation for up to four children and young people. Two young people were living in the main building. This comprised a dining kitchen, lounge, games / activities room and office downstairs and young people's private bedrooms and bathroom upstairs. One young person was resident in the self contained flat in an annexe to the main building. This flat comprised of dining kitchen area, lounge, bathroom and young persons bedroom.

The service has a large garden to the rear of the house with an unused fish pond and allotment area.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced which took place on 29 January 2026 between 11:45 and 17:30.

This was a pilot inspection to test a new way of inspecting to provide assurance that better performing services continue to strive to meet the promise. No new evaluations (grades) have been awarded. This inspection is called a promise assurance inspection. It focusses 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 throughout the inspection year.

We confirmed that the service continued to have the rights and voices of children and young people at the heart of their care and support. We know this because on this inspection we:

- Spoke with three people using the service
- Spoke with four staff and the manager
- Observed practice and daily life
- Reviewed documents.

Key messages

Voice:

The young people's views and opinions were central to the care they received. Young people engaged with staff in discussion about their aims, wishes and preferences and what they aspired to do. Whilst independent advocacy was available to young people, they spoke with staff about their needs and confided with those they trusted. Young people were empowered and encouraged to engage in their care plan and to voice their opinions at reviews of the plan.

This provided young people with the reassurance that their voices would be heard. They also had access to responsible adults outwith the service, such as the provider's therapist, family, social workers, health professionals, and education professionals. This further assured young people that their views would always be represented

Care:

Young people told us they liked living in the home. Staff ensured that activities young people were interested in were available to them. Some young people were playing football, chess whilst others liked to explore rock pools and go fishing. Through these activities previous interests together with new experiences were promoted and made available. Education was a high priority for the young people with full attendance at school being achieved. Although there had been some staff turnover, the young people experienced nurturing and supportive relationships which helped to promote positive outcomes. Young people told us they felt safe in the service and we observed good humoured and nurturing interaction between staff and young people.

One young person told us: *'I like it here more than I did at my previous placement. I get to have more fun and have a laugh and a joke'*.

People:

Strong consistent leadership supported staff in achieving a very good quality of care. The manager and staff were highly reflective and responsive to the needs of young people. A trauma informed staff team were alert to the impact of trauma on the young people's behaviours. Through their own training, skills, experience and in consultation with the service providers therapist staff nurtured consistent caring relationships with the young people.

One staff member stated, *'We keep young people connected to the activities or facilities that are important to them.'*

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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