

Spark of Genius Easter Hayston House Care Home Service

Kirkintilloch

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
12 February 2026

Service provided by:
Spark of Genius Limited

Service provider number:
SP2016012791

Service no:
CS2017354835

About the service

Spark of Genius Easter Hayston House is a children's care home registered to look after a maximum of five children and young people.

The house is a detached property on the outskirts of Kirkintilloch.

The service, which is provided by Spark of Genius Limited, operates over 24-hours, 52 weeks of the year.

Children and young people living in Easter Hayston will be referred by their local authorities and will either attend their own school, a local school/college or workplace, or the registered education facility provided by Spark of Genius.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on 09 February 2026 and 10 February 2026. 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 two of their family members
- spoke with nine staff and management
- observed practice and daily life
- reviewed documents
- spoke with one external professional.

Key messages

- Young people felt safe, protected and secure within the service.
- Warm, stable and attuned relationships were central to the home's culture, providing a strong foundation for young people's growth.
- Staff built positive, collaborative relationships with families, social workers, and other key partners, strengthening the support network around each young person.
- Young people felt valued and understood, contributing to a sense of belonging within the home.
- Young people were encouraged to explore their interests, and their individual strengths were actively supported.
- Young people were supported to maintain positive physical and mental health with timely access to relevant services when needed.

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 care provided by the service and impact these had on the outcomes for young people, therefore we evaluated this key question as very good.

Children and young people experienced high quality care within the service, where nurturing relationships and safety were consistently prioritised. Staff held a deep and genuine understanding of each young person, recognising not only their individual needs but also the personal circumstances, routines and approaches that helped them feel safe, valued and supported. This was evident throughout our observations and discussions with the team.

The environment felt homely, warm and welcoming. Staff described the service as, "a very family orientated house" and told us that coming to work felt like stepping into a family setting. This ethos was clearly embedded in the home's culture. Interactions were natural, affectionate and warm. Visual representations of family life, such as photographs reinforced the young people's sense of belonging and identity within the household.

Relationships were compassionate, consistent and therapeutic. We observed genuine connection between staff and young people, including small moments of reassurance, shared humour and emotional support. These interactions contributed to a stable atmosphere where young people felt understood and safe. Trust was clearly well established. Young people routinely sought support from staff, reflecting a confidence that staff would respond appropriately.

Staff demonstrated competence in child protection practice. They were confident in their roles and responsibilities, with regular training in place. Safeguarding procedures were followed appropriately, including individualised plans for device use for some young people. Staff implemented enhanced safety checks diligently when necessary.

The service operated from a trauma informed, relationship based model of care. Staff approached behaviour with curiosity, empathy and an understanding of developmental needs. They described recognising patterns in young people's emotions or presentation and adapted their support accordingly. Staff spoke with compassion and pride about the progress and increased stability young people had achieved.

The staff team demonstrated strong cohesion and commitment. Staff told us they worked flexibly and collaboratively to ensure young people continued to receive consistent care. They expressed shared goals and a clear focus on the wellbeing of the young people.

Young people benefitted from strong, positive relationships with their families and significant others. The service actively facilitated family time, including transport and practical support, and created a welcoming environment for relatives visiting the home. Family members felt comfortable spending time in the service. Families told us that staff, "nurture, love and care for my child" and that communication from the service was excellent.

Partnership working with professionals was highly effective. Social workers and education staff described the service as communicative, responsive and strong advocates for the young people. Staff supported educational engagement through close collaboration and practical support, including maintaining daily school attendance regardless of distance.

Risk assessments were robust, detailed and regularly reviewed. Matching and admission processes were thorough, prioritising the safety and stability of the household. Records of incidents and restrictive practices were of good quality, with evidence of reflective debriefs, shared learning and a culture of openness.

Young people were supported to develop their interests, skills and emotional wellbeing. Staff were proactive in offering new opportunities, including sports and hobbies, and promoted healthy routines, such as mealtimes, which were carefully structured and managed.

Overall, children and young people experienced love, safety and high quality nurturing care, resulting in positive and meaningful outcomes in their wellbeing, relationships, learning and development.

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 young people receive consistent care and support from a stable and consistent staff team, the service should ensure sufficient levels of staffing are in place at all times.

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

'My needs are met by the right number of people' (HSCS 3.15); and

'People have time to support and care for me and to speak with me' (HSCS 3.16).

This area for improvement was made on 30 May 2023.

Action taken since then

Recruitment is ongoing with several new staff, and some vacancies. Despite that the team met the needs of each young person and were able to have a consistent staff team with always three staff members on shift.

Previous area for improvement 2

Staff receive regular formal supervision that improves the care offered to young people and the development of carer practice.

This to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which state that: 'I have confidence in people because they are trained, competent and skilled, are able to reflect on their practice and follow their professional and organisational codes' (HSCS 3.14).

This area for improvement was made on 30 May 2023.

Action taken since then

All staff spoke of getting regular supervision taking place at regular frequency. There was a supervision tracker in place for managers to monitor regularity of staff supervision.

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

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