

Coblehaugh Children's Home Care Home Service

Inverurie

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
27 March 2026

Service provided by:
Aberdeenshire Council

Service provider number:
SP2003000029

Service no:
CS2003000298

About the service

Coblehaugh Children's Home provides a care home service for up to six children and young people. It is a modern, detached building in Port Elphinstone, near Inverurie, owned and operated by Aberdeenshire Council.

The service state that their aim is to:

'Offer a warm and homely environment where children and young people develop loving and lifelong relationships. We are committed to keeping 'The Promise' and strive to ensure that young people are supported to feel heard, develop healthy relationships, have the right support team around them, and maintain relationships with family and friends who are important to them.

We promote a child centred, individualised, and holistic approach in meeting children and young people's needs, ensuring all aspects of care and wellbeing are met. We aim to provide a nurturing home where children and young people can feel safe, respected and celebrate achievements within their own abilities'.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on Thursday 26 March 2026 between 12.00 and 19:45.

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 young people using the service
- spoke with staff, and the manager
- observed practice and daily life
- reviewed documents
- received questionnaire responses from four young people, ten external professional and six staff.

Key messages

Voice:

Young people's voices were at the heart of the care they received. Caring adults and young people spent a lot of time in each other's company, developing strong and trusting relationships which enabled young people to openly share their views in a natural and ongoing way. Creative approaches were used to engage young people in involvement in their own support plans. Independent advocacy was available to all young people as another means to ensure their views were of the utmost importance.

A social worker told us: "Care plans are created by young people with staff support. Young people are actively encouraged and supported to meet with Children's Rights and attend their LAC Reviews so they are part of the team creating their child's plan".

Care:

Caring adults at Coblehaugh offered relational and consistent care, which was thoughtful and nurturing, and based on an understanding of young people's individual needs. Young people had support plans and risk assessments which provided effective information about important aspects of their care. Information in their plans reflected the discussion that young people and staff had with the inspector. Young people were observed to be relaxed and happy in the company of the adults who cared for them.

All four of the young people who returned questionnaires agreed or strongly agreed they were safe and respected at Coblehaugh.

People:

A dedicated, experienced and knowledgeable staff team were well trained and well supported. Leadership was visible and effective and provided clear direction. The team understood the impact of trauma in young people's lives, and used team meetings and individual supervision to promote reflective discussion. A development plan demonstrated a desire for continuous improvement which would positively influence the lives of the young people cared for at Coblehaugh.

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

All staff should complete the mandatory training expected by the organisation. This includes child and adult protection.

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); and

'I receive high quality care and support based on relevant evidence, guidance and best practice' (HSCS 4.11).

This area for improvement was made on 24 May 2024.

Action taken since then

Records evidenced that all staff had completed mandatory training, with reminders sent when training needed to be renewed, and ongoing discussion at 1:1 supervision.

This area for improvement has been met.

Previous area for improvement 2

Incident recording should be reviewed to ensure the process demonstrates reflection and analysis, debrief and managerial overview.

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

'I benefit from a culture of continuous improvement, with the organisation having robust and transparent quality assurance processes' (HSCS 4.19).

This area for improvement was made on 24 May 2024.

Action taken since then

There were few incidents. These had been effectively recorded and discussed, with appropriate managerial overview.

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.

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