

# Davidshill Farm School Care Accommodation Service

Davidshill Farm  
Dalry  
KA24 4JD

Telephone: 01294 835359

Type of inspection: Unannounced  
Inspection completed on: 20 December 2017

**Service provided by:**  
Spark of Genius (Training) Ltd

**Service provider number:**  
SP2006008009

**Care service number:**  
CS2007157693

## About the service

This service registered with the Care Inspectorate on 1 April 2011.

Davidshill Farm is registered as school care accommodation. The service may provide care for a maximum of five young people aged between nine and 18 years. At the time of this inspection five young people were using the service.

Spark of Genius (Training) Ltd. (Spark of Genius) provides this service and operates a 24-hour service 52 weeks of the year. Davidshill Farm is located near Dalry in North Ayrshire and is set in large attractive gardens.

The service provides the residential living accommodation for the young people and their educational needs are met through attendance at learning centres also provided by Spark of Genius, or at other educational provision, whichever is identified in care plans.

Davidshill Farm has a full-time manager to run the day-to-day service and is supported by an assistant manager and senior residential worker and a team of day and night residential workers.

## What people told us

We spoke with two young people. Both told us they had good relationships with staff and considered they were well cared for. We were told about the many opportunities to try new activities and also about keeping in touch with family members. One young person was very clear about the significant progress made since living at Davidshill Farm, but as this young person did not have additional support needs considered it an unsuitable placement and frustrating at times.

## Self assessment

This was not requested by the Care Inspectorate for this inspection year, however, the manger provided us with all requested documentation during the inspection.

## From this inspection we graded this service as:

<b>Quality of care and support</b>	5 - Very Good
<b>Quality of environment</b>	not assessed
<b>Quality of staffing</b>	not assessed
<b>Quality of management and leadership</b>	5 - Very Good

## What the service does well

We found the staff provided a high level of supervision of the children to ensure their safety and wellbeing. Risk assessments were completed for each child and were updated as required. Young people had made progress in this area with reduced episodes of risk behaviour, for example, self-harming and reduced risk of exploitation. Children were being encouraged to be more independent as their understanding of how to keep themselves safe increased.

The staff team were attentive to children's health needs and effective partnership arrangements with health professionals meant children were receiving the health care they required. Healthy living was promoted and children enjoyed well-balanced meals and an active lifestyle. Trips and holidays were provided regularly and this enabled children to enjoy new experiences and further opportunities to strengthen relationships with staff and other children.

It was evident that children had positive relationships with staff that knew and understood them. Consequently children were more able to verbalise their feelings and seek reassurance during difficult times. Staff and management were imaginative and skilled in communicating with the children who had additional support needs. This included use of visual aids and signing. Management ensured the training provided was relevant to the needs of the young people and included working with trauma, using Makaton signing and autism awareness.

Staff understood the potential for social isolation which can impact on children with disabilities and showed great commitment to ensuring young people had the opportunity to meet with friends outside school, attend clubs and use community resources.

There was very good communication with parents. We could see from the views provided by parents that staff were supportive, non-judgemental and helpful. A child had recently returned home after several years in care and the parent attributed this to great support from Davidshill Farm. This was a very good outcome for this child and family.

Children and young people were supported in school with staff presence as required. This worked well for children and we could see great progress in terms of attendance, academic achievement and a growth of confidence mixing with peers.

The management of the service were extremely attuned to the daily routines and rhythms of the house and of the needs and progress of children. Staff told us they felt extremely well supported and valued and respected the skills and knowledge of the manager. The manager routinely sought the views of others and we could see that suggestions were taken forward. The service had a development plan in which the staff team had contributed and we could see areas identified for improvement were progressing.

File audits were carried out and action points taken forward. The organisation had also used the services of an independent consultant to carry out quality assurance and we could see the manager had taken some steps to address the findings.

Incidents and safe holds were closely monitored and reviewed by the manager and there was an open approach in which the team could reflect and learn from situations and amend practice approaches accordingly.

The manager was diligent in informing the Care Inspectorate of notifiable event and also of the Scottish Social Services Council when appropriate.

## What the service could do better

The provider had recently installed hand dryers in bathrooms and toilets with the expectation children either, first visit their bedroom to take their towel to the bathroom each time they required to wash their hands or use the dryer. We considered this inappropriate for children, especially children with a degree of cognitive impairment and were also institutionalised. We also observed children did not always use the hand dryer, nor collect a towel from their bedroom. (Refer to recommendation 1)

We considered that given the personal care needs of some of the children placed, the provider should install more bathroom facilities. (Refer to recommendation 2)

We read the support plan for one recently placed child and concluded that the contents of the support plan was insufficient to enable all staff to have a good understanding of this child's needs and abilities and thus could potentially impact on progress. We were of the view more use could have been made of the information provided during the transition. (Refer to recommendation 3)

We discussed the way in which personal care needs of children were being met and suggested this be reviewed to minimise, as much as is possible, the amount of carers the child has providing intimate care in the interests of privacy and dignity. The manager agreed to take this forward.

We found the in-house auditing did not capture quality of care matters and outcomes, instead focused on missing paperwork. We were told the method of auditing was being reviewed. We will review progress at the next inspection. We discussed ways in which the development plan could be linked to the service outcomes for children with the manager.

## Requirements

**Number of requirements:** 0

## Recommendations

**Number of recommendations:** 3

1. The provider should install additional bathrooms to meet the care and support needs of children placed.

National Care Standards, school care accommodation services - Standard 4: Privacy and dignity.

2. The provider should consider removing the hand driers from the bathrooms.

National Care Standards, school care accommodation services - Standard 5: Comfort, safety and security.

3. Support plans should contain sufficient information about children to enable consistent and child-centred care. This should include information gathered about the child pre-admission.

National Care Standards, school care accommodation services - Standard 6: Support arrangements.

## Complaints

There have been no complaints upheld since the last inspection. Details of any older upheld complaints are published at [www.careinspectorate.com](http://www.careinspectorate.com).

## Inspection and grading history

Date	Type	Gradings
7 Dec 2016	Unannounced	Care and support 6 - Excellent Environment Not assessed Staffing 6 - Excellent Management and leadership Not assessed
1 Feb 2016	Unannounced	Care and support 6 - Excellent Environment 6 - Excellent Staffing 5 - Very good Management and leadership 5 - Very good
30 Mar 2015	Unannounced	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment 6 - Excellent Staffing 5 - Very good Management and leadership 6 - Excellent
4 Dec 2014	Unannounced	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment 6 - Excellent Staffing 5 - Very good Management and leadership 6 - Excellent
19 Dec 2013	Unannounced	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment 5 - Very good Staffing 5 - Very good Management and leadership 5 - Very good
28 May 2013	Unannounced	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment 5 - Very good Staffing 5 - Very good Management and leadership 5 - Very good
23 Oct 2012	Unannounced	Care and support 4 - Good Environment 5 - Very good Staffing 4 - Good Management and leadership 4 - Good
22 May 2012	Unannounced	Care and support 3 - Adequate Environment 4 - Good Staffing Not assessed

Date	Type	Gradings	
		Management and leadership	Not assessed
12 Dec 2011	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	2 - Weak 3 - Adequate Not assessed Not assessed
19 May 2011	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	3 - Adequate 3 - Adequate Not assessed Not assessed
9 Dec 2010	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good Not assessed Not assessed 5 - Very good
29 Jul 2010	Announced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good Not assessed Not assessed 5 - Very good
4 Feb 2010	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good Not assessed 5 - Very good Not assessed
2 Oct 2009	Re-grade	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	Not assessed Not assessed 4 - Good Not assessed
17 Aug 2009	Re-grade	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	Not assessed Not assessed 2 - Weak Not assessed
18 Feb 2009	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing	4 - Good 4 - Good 4 - Good

Date	Type	Gradings	
		Management and leadership	4 - Good
26 Aug 2008	Announced	Care and support	4 - Good
		Environment	4 - Good
		Staffing	4 - Good
		Management and leadership	4 - Good

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