

Davidshill Farm School Care Accommodation Service

Davidshill Farm
Dalry
KA24 4JD

Telephone: 01294 835359

Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 7 December 2016

Service provided by:
Spark of Genius (Training) Ltd

Service provider number:
SP2006008009

Care service number:
CS2007157693

About the service

The Care Inspectorate regulates care services in Scotland. Information about all care services is available on our website at www.careinspectorate.com

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 9 and 18 years. At the time of this inspection 4 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.

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. The manager is supported by an assistant manager and the head of children's services.

The following is part of a statement by the Managing Director of Spark of Genius on the Spark of Genius website:

"Spark of Genius wants to make life changing experiences available for all our children and young people, through the care we provide, the education and community support we offer and the continuing relationship we have with our young people, their families and carers".

What people told us

We met with all four young people living in the service. We could see that young people were settled and happy living in Davidshill. Young people told us about activities they took part in and how they were supported by staff.

We spoke with the parent of one young person who told us the staff were "fantastic" and that he "couldn't fault them". He considered his child has benefitted greatly from living in Davidshill and was now more able to verbalise views and feelings. This parent greatly valued the ongoing support of workers during the contact times with his child.

Self assessment

The manager provided a very detailed self assessment and had gathered the views of staff, young people and significant stakeholders in the course of completing the self assessment document.

We considered the self assessment reflected our inspection findings and was helpful to the inspection process.

From this inspection we graded this service as:

Quality of care and support

6 - Excellent

Quality of environment	not assessed
Quality of staffing	6 - Excellent
Quality of management and leadership	not assessed

What the service does well

We found an excellent service was provided to the children and young people living in Davidshill Farm.

The staff group's depth of understanding of the individual needs of the children and young people was impressive. This underpinned the safe caring environment in which children and young people were nurtured, experienced emotional support and were enabled to make significant steps towards achieving their potential.

We found that children had meaningful relationships with staff members and that these bonds provided comfort at times of uncertainty and distress. The importance of relationships between children and staff was understood and was effectively helping children overcome past trauma and disadvantage and to grow and develop. Staff told us they enjoyed caring for the children in Davidshill Farm and felt valued and respected in the work they did. The commitment to the children was without question and the ethos of respect, acceptance and warmth was a major cohesive factor in the excellent outcomes for children.

Barriers to communication, as a consequence of childhood disability, were overcome by the many examples of innovative practice employed by staff. Some examples included the use of visual aids, such as pictorial exchange cards, sleep count downs charts, visual aids to prompt daily routines and picture menu boards. This enabled children to express their wishes, fears and aspirations and demonstrated that children and young people were respected and valued.

Well considered daily routines meant that children and young people experienced a consistency and predictability to their day which promoted feelings of security. The promotion of skills and introducing incremental levels of responsibility encouraged independence. We found children learning to attend to self-care, share household chores, cook and prepare food.

Health and wellbeing was prioritised with effective partnership working with primary health services and specialised services meant that improved health was maintained. We found children in need of mental health services were actively supported to access support in this area and staff members impressed with their professional approach to understanding the different health conditions of the children and young people. We found staff observed the children closely, sought advice from specialists, learned from each other, sourced and read (and applied) best practice and research.

Activities, hobbies and interests were encouraged and keenly supported. This gave children the opportunity to build social skills and make new friends. The newly developed small animal corner in the grounds was very popular and another example of Davidshill Farm maximising ways to engage in meaningful and enjoyable ways with the children. The opportunities provided by the equine centre continued to give exceptional opportunities for children to work through trauma, develop lifelong skills and experience.

The Care Inspectorate is scoping Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) practice in children and young people's services for the inspection year 2016/2017. This is part of our contribution to 'Scotland's National action plan to tackle 'Child Sexual Exploitation' and focusses on frameworks of CSE practice, staff understanding and care planning outcomes.

The service's child protection policy included a section relating to Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE).

A child protection training plan for all staff members was in place and most had attended this; with the remainder scheduled to attend. The staff team also recognised the additional vulnerability to CSE for children and young people with disability and it was commendable that this was being addressed in a proactive way in work undertaken with children.

What the service could do better

The service is continually looking at ways to develop and improve. Achievements and successes are commendable such as the knowledge developed in communicating with children with additional support needs. The service themselves have plans to introduce more structured independence plans for older children living in the house to support future transitions.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Complaints

There have been no complaints upheld since the last inspection. Details of any older upheld complaints are published at www.careinspectorate.com.

Inspection and grading history

Date	Type	Gradings
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

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

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

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