

Foxhill Cottage School Care Accommodation Service

Stair
Mauchline
KA5 5HW

Telephone: 01292 591198

Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 21 December 2016

Service provided by:
Spark of Genius (Training) Ltd

Service provider number:
SP2006008009

Care service number:
CS2008169073

About the service

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

Foxhill Cottage is registered for School Care Accommodation. The service is registered to care for a maximum of five young people aged between 10 and 18 years of age. The nearby Chestnut Cottage provides accommodation for one young person.

The service is provided by Spark of Genius (Training) Ltd. (Spark of Genius) and operates a 24 hour service 52 weeks of the year. There is a full-time manager and assistant manager to manage the service with a dedicated team of child care residential workers and a senior practitioner. Foxhill is a detached property in an attractive rural setting in Ayrshire.

The service provides the residential living accommodation for the young people while 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.

At the time of the inspection, there were five young people living in Foxhill Cottage and a young person living in Chestnut Cottage.

What people told us

We spoke with four young people. Young people told us they had good relationships with the staff team and had people to whom they could talk over worries and concerns. All young people confirmed that they were involved in decisions regarding their day-to-day care and in important decisions about their future. This included choices about room decoration, holidays, activities and food choices. Young people told us staff helped them keep in touch with people who were important, such as friends and family. One young person felt the placement was too remote and felt the opportunities for education were limited.

Self assessment

A self-assessment was provided which identified strengths and areas which were being developed. This document helped inform the inspection process.

From this inspection we graded this service as:

Quality of care and support	5 - Very Good
Quality of environment	5 - Very Good
Quality of staffing	not assessed
Quality of management and leadership	not assessed

What the service does well

We found that a very good standard of care and support was provided to young people living in Foxhill Cottage.

Support plans were highly individualised and promoted the engagement of young people. The 'All about me'

section gave insight into the preferences and personality of the children and young people and we found that the staff team provided care which met individual needs. Young people had good relationships with staff and we found the nurturing approach was helping children recover from past trauma. Support plans were structured around the GIRFEC (Getting it Right for Every Child) wellbeing indicators of Safe, Healthy, Achieving, Nurtured, Active, Responsible, Respected and Included. This meant a holistic approach was taken to the needs of children, which involved good partnership working with other agencies such as primary health providers and education.

The promotion of safe care was given priority. The risk assessment and management plans for children provided a high level of detail as to each child's vulnerabilities and the appropriate interventions to be deployed to promote safety. We could see that episodes of crisis behaviour had reduced and children were more able to express feeling of anxiety and frustration and developing skills in managing conflict. Staff members were vigilant in supervising children and young people and had good processes in place to ensure the environment was maintained to a good standard.

The staff team encouraged and educated young people on keeping healthy. This included being active and the importance of good nutrition. Most children had a hobby which involved physical exercise and most could prepare basic meals from fresh ingredients. Children and young people attended primary health care providers as necessary; for example, annual checks with LAAC nurses, regular dental checks, speech and language and sexual health clinics.

All children were receiving education or in work placements. We could see that for some young people this presented challenges; however, staff continues to motivate and praise young people for achievements and this approach was successful. There was good links between the team at Foxhill and the Spark of Genius school and other educational providers.

There was a wealth of toys and equipment for children to aid learning and to promote constructive use of relaxation time. We found the amount of belongings of the children added to the homeliness of the environment and we could see children considered Foxhill to be their home. Staff had a very good understanding that the development stage of children may differ from their chronological age and the toys and games available reflected this.

Children and young people were developing good social skills. An anti-bullying message was understood by children and discussed regularly in-house meetings. We found a harmony between the children and found an understanding and respect for one another's differences. A good example of this was that young people took to learn Makaton signing to enable communication with one of the young people.

The developing of skills in independence was part of daily life and was individualised depending on the age and stage of children and young people. We found some sharing in household chores, cooking, budgeting and learning to manage public transport. Young people were involved in decisions regarding the house, including decoration, prioritising new purchases and upgrading, such as the new garden play equipment. We found this level of engagement had resulted in a very child-centred environment, which was welcoming and suited to the needs of children.

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 provider had guidance in relation to CSE within the child protection policy. Staff we spoke with had a

very good understanding of the indicators of CSE and how to report concerns. Appropriate action had recently been taken in relation in the recent past regarding concerns about a young person.

What the service could do better

We considered the service could consider linking the learning needs of young people to support plans. This was discussed during feedback and the assistant manager told us she would take this forward.

We also discussed ways in which the service could clarify with staff the purpose of key time as we found recordings which we considered would be a day-to-day interactions with young people and not specific focused time. The assistant manager agreed to look at this.

We found one Risk Assessment and Management Plan (RAMP) required updating. We also considered that the service could look at how to condense some of the information in the management section of the RAMP including removing old and duplicated information (see recommendation 1).

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 1

1. Risk assessment and management plans should be current, concise and contain only relevant information.

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.

Inspection and grading history

Date	Type	Gradings
11 Jan 2016	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership
		5 - Very good 5 - Very good 5 - Very good 5 - Very good

Date	Type	Gradings	
3 Feb 2015	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good 5 - Very good 5 - Very good 5 - Very good
22 Aug 2014	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good 5 - Very good 4 - Good 5 - Very good
18 Feb 2014	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good 5 - Very good 5 - Very good 5 - Very good
29 May 2013	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	4 - Good 5 - Very good 5 - Very good Not assessed
20 Nov 2012	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good Not assessed Not assessed 5 - Very good
30 Jul 2012	Announced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good 5 - Very good 5 - Very good Not assessed
19 Oct 2011	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	4 - Good 4 - Good Not assessed Not assessed
15 Apr 2011	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	4 - Good 4 - Good Not assessed Not assessed

Date	Type	Gradings	
10 Nov 2010	Unannounced	Care and support	4 - Good
		Environment	Not assessed
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	Not assessed
17 Jun 2010	Announced	Care and support	4 - Good
		Environment	Not assessed
		Staffing	4 - Good
		Management and leadership	Not assessed
3 Feb 2010	Unannounced	Care and support	4 - Good
		Environment	Not assessed
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	Not assessed
2 Oct 2009	Re-grade	Care and support	Not assessed
		Environment	Not assessed
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	Not assessed
17 Aug 2009	Re-grade	Care and support	Not assessed
		Environment	Not assessed
		Staffing	2 - Weak
		Management and leadership	Not assessed
15 Jan 2009	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	5 - Very good
17 Sep 2008	Announced	Care and support	4 - Good
		Environment	5 - Very good
		Staffing	4 - Good
		Management and leadership	4 - Good

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