

Aspris 'Gatehouse' School Care Accommodation Service

Gatehouse of Caprington
Caprington Estate
Kilmarnock
KA2 9AA

Telephone: 01563 544 059

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
27 September 2024

Service provided by:
Aspris Scotland Ltd

Service provider number:
SP2010011131

Service no:
CS2011299805

About the service

The Aspris Gatehouse service is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of five children and young people aged 8 years to 18 years. The service is provided from a five bedded detached house which sits within its own grounds near Caprington, East Ayrshire.

The house provides homely accommodation consisting of upstairs five individual rooms for the young people, two large bathrooms and an office and downstairs a large lounge, a smaller good sized lounge, a spacious kitchen and an office. There are further outside buildings for storing bikes etc.

The spacious grounds provide large open areas for young people to play and spend time outdoors. They currently have swings and see-saws for the younger children and football nets for those who enjoyed playing football.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection type which took place on the 25th September. 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 four people using the service and three of their family and three of the representatives
- Spoke with four staff and one manager
- Observed practice and daily life
- Reviewed documents
- Spoke with three visiting professionals.

Key messages

- Young people stated they felt safe and happy within the house.
- Young people enjoyed positive nurturing relationships with the staff group.
- Young people enjoyed engaging in, and were successful at, various activities of interest to them.
- Some young people were continuing in the service under continuing care arrangements.
- Young people were gaining more independent skills through the support of staff and their own abilities.
- Some young people were enjoying successful transition planning to the next steps.
- Staff were skilled at maintaining awareness of the dynamics between the peers and addressing developing situations.
- Staff were developing positive relationships with young peoples parents and carers.
- Staff were working with young people on clear care plans and risk assessments.

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
--------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------

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 aspects of the care provided and how these supported positive outcomes for young people, therefore we evaluated this key question as very good.

Staff had formed positive, supportive and nurturing relationships with the young people. We observed very good-natured exchanges between them. Good humour was being used alongside sensitive and assertive statements in providing appropriate guidance to young people. The young people told us that they felt safe and could identify particular staff members that they would trust and confide in.

Staff also worked with parents and external partner agencies to maintain the safety of young people during more difficult situations. This level of response assured young people that staff were there for them and had their safety and wellbeing as the highest priority. The staff's high level of knowledge of the young people's needs, and how best to respond to these, evidenced their commitment to seeking positive outcomes for young people. Furthermore, consistency in care was achieved through maintaining a stable staff group.

Through this support some young people were choosing to remain in the service through continuing care arrangements. Young people's rights, with regard to continuing care, were therefore respected completely. Similarly, young people were being successfully supported to transition to more independent living, per their aspirations and wishes.

Young people were supported to enjoy various activities. Although the service is in a semi rural location, the staff supported young people to access community activities. Access to local youth groups and community facilities was provided through direct transport. Support to access independent travel was also offered where this was preferred by young people and appropriate for their development.

Day trips to places of interest offered positive, stimulating, new experiences and opportunities. Accessing such activities also promoted young people's interests, offered positive social interaction and nurtured their sense of identity.

Young people meet regularly with family members, friends and others of significant importance to them. Staff either facilitated this directly or enabled this through supporting travel. Young people were therefore reassured that important relationships would be maintained, whilst family members were also assured of the children's wellbeing and progress of the care plan.

The importance of education was promoted. Those who attended school were achieving well, whilst others had been successful in looking to gain employment and access college. Further learning opportunities for young people, in line with their interests, were being explored and supported by staff. Where education arrangements had been problematic and not yet finalised for young people, the service staff were clearly advocating on their behalf. In these instances staff were continuing to provide a level of home education to ensure young people's interest in learning was promoted, and their right to education supported. Subsequently young people's feelings of self-worth and achievement were positively nurtured.

Physical health was promoted through positive encouragement in participating in activities such as athletics, biking, and football. The staff, in consultation with external specialists, were also successfully engaging some young people in discussions regarding their emotional well-being. Through these discussions staff strengthened young people's participation in developing emotional resilience and positive mental health.

The service environment had been repaired since the last inspection of the large house and the decor refreshed. We found that the house provided a warm, homely environment within which the young people could relax, and feel comfortable and safe.

Care plans were developed with the participation of the young people to ensure their views were heard in these processes. The plans were individualised with goals set for each young persons needs. We considered however that the service could make more explicit links between care plans, risk assessments and support strategies and we have asked the manager to review the cross referencing of these documents. We have also asked that any health needs identified in the young people;s records are also stated clearly within the risk assessments; to avoid any misunderstanding.

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

To find out more

This inspection report is published by the Care Inspectorate. You can download this report and others from our website.

Care services in Scotland cannot operate unless they are registered with the Care Inspectorate. We inspect, award grades and help services to improve. We also investigate complaints about care services and can take action when things aren't good enough.

Please get in touch with us if you would like more information or have any concerns about a care service.

You can also read more about our work online at www.careinspectorate.com

Contact us

Care Inspectorate
Compass House
11 Riverside Drive
Dundee
DD1 4NY

enquiries@careinspectorate.com

0345 600 9527

Find us on Facebook

Twitter: @careinspect

Other languages and formats

This report is available in other languages and formats on request.

Tha am foillseachadh seo ri fhaighinn ann an cruthannan is cànan eile ma nithear iarrtas.

অনুরোধসাপেক্ষে এই প্রকাশনাটি অন্য ফরম্যাট এবং অন্যান্য ভাষায় পাওয়া যায়।

یہ اشاعت درخواست کرنے پر دیگر شکلوں اور دیگر زبانوں میں فراہم کی جاسکتی ہے۔

ਬੇਨਤੀ 'ਤੇ ਇਹ ਪ੍ਰਕਾਸ਼ਨ ਹੋਰ ਰੂਪਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਹੋਰਨਾਂ ਭਾਸ਼ਾਵਾਂ ਵਿਚ ਉਪਲਬਧ ਹੈ।

هذه الوثيقة متوفرة بلغات ونماذج أخرى عند الطلب

本出版品有其他格式和其他語言備索。

Na życzenie niniejsza publikacja dostępna jest także w innych formatach oraz językach.