

Aspris - Woodend Farm School Care Accommodation Service

Dyke Farm
Symington
Kilmarnock
KA1 5PN

Telephone: 01563 830 092

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
17 December 2024

Service provided by:
Aspris Scotland Ltd

Service provider number:
SP2010011131

Service no:
CS2016348976

About the service

Woodend Farm provides school care accommodation for up to five young people and is situated in a rural location close to Ayr and Kilmarnock. The service is run by Aspris Children's Services; who also provide their own educational resource, Radio City, based in Kilbirnie.

Woodend Farm comprises of five bedrooms, three with en-suites, two sitting rooms, a large dining kitchen and staff office area.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on 6 December 2024 between 11:00 and 21:30 and 9 December 2024 between 12:00 and 17:00. 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 two young people. Three also completed our questionnaire.
- Spoke with 10 staff and management and eight completed our questionnaire.
- Observed practice and daily life.
- Reviewed documents.
- Spoke with three visiting professionals and two completed our questionnaire.

During our inspection year 2024-2025 we are inspecting against a focus area which looks at how regulated services use legislation and guidance to promote children's right to continuing care and how children and young people are being helped to understand what their right to continuing care means for them. Any requirements or areas for improvement will be highlighted in this report.

Key messages

- Children and young people were safer because of their care at Woodend Farm.
- Children and young people experienced fun, attuned and stable care.
- Children and young people's connections to family, friends and the community were championed.
- Children and young people received individually tailored support to participate in learning.
- The staff pro-actively and effectively advocated for the children and young people's rights and needs.

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
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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 children and young people, therefore we evaluated this key question as very good.

Children and young people told us they felt safe at Woodend Farm and they were safer due to the care they experienced from the attuned and nurturing staff team. The staff had a clear understanding of potential risks relevant to each of the young people and used their relationships with them to identify risks early and used strategies they knew would help them become safer. The staff were knowledgeable and responsive, and they worked collaboratively and effectively with other agencies to reduce risks.

Children and young people enjoyed warm, trusting, and nurturing relationships with those caring for them. The relationships were based on compassion and an understanding of the impact of trauma on behaviours and development. The team also understood the importance of play and the young people had fun with them. The respectful care they experienced was reflected in the warm and homely house that they lived in. They were involved in all decisions about house life and were supported to fully engage in their care.

Young people living at Woodend Farm always had access to external professionals, including advocacy, and their rights were upheld because the staff took a pro-active and collaborative approach to their care.

Children and young people got the most out of life because their mental and physical health needs were promptly and comprehensively met. The team were consistently pro-active in ensuring young people had support from appropriate health services.

Children and young people experienced attuned and stable care. There had been no use of restraint since the last inspection and the likelihood of this being required was progressively reduced because of policy, culture, and practice. The experienced and consistent staff team were confident they could support young people who experienced crisis, by using their relationships. The provider was also in the process of developing a therapeutic model of practice through a new training program and we looked forward to seeing the impact of this at the next inspection.

Children and young people's individual ambitions, interests and life-skills were consistently supported and developed and children and young people received individually tailored support to participate in learning. The team took a confident yet sensitive approach to supporting young people develop their interests and increase their confidence in learning within a group setting. The advocacy and consistency provided by the staff team ensured all of the young people were making progress in their own ways.

Meaningful connections to family, siblings, friends and the community were championed, fostered and sustained. All of the young people had meaningful connections to family and friends where this was appropriate and safe. The team were dedicated to ensuring the young people had every opportunity to spend time with the people that were important to them. The young people were also actively encouraged to make friends, and the service helped them to settle in the local area by involving them in clubs and activities.

The provider had made a commitment to continuing care for children and young people and them being able to live at Woodend Farm, well into adulthood. The provider was implementing a continuing care policy, and we anticipated this would enhance the confidence of the staff team in advocating for the young people's rights in this area.

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

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