

National Fostering Agency Scotland Adult Placement Service

1st Floor
East Gateway
Beancross Road
Grangemouth
FK3 8WH

Telephone: 01324 468 055

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Service provided by:
The National Fostering Agency
(Scotland) Limited

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CS2018363688

About the service

National Fostering Agency (Scotland) (NFAS) is an independent fostering agency with an office base in central Scotland. The agency supports carers across Scotland and is part of the UK wide National Fostering Agency group. The adult placement service is registered for the purpose of continuing care and has a number of carers approved to provide Continuing Care for young people aged 18-21. It operates under the same management team as their fostering service and shares the same staff team.

An inspection of NFAS fostering service was undertaken in conjunction with this inspection. The findings of that inspection can be found in a separate report for that service which should be read in conjunction with this report.

About the inspection

This was a short notice announced inspection which took place between Monday 4 November 2024 at 10:30 and Wednesday 27 November 2025 at 17:15. The inspection was carried out by three inspectors 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:

- met with three carers approved for continuing care and three young people experiencing continuing care in their homes
- spoke with 1 carer during a focus group for carers approved for continuing care
- spoke with one local authority placing social worker
- met with eight members of staff
- met with two Team Managers and two Advanced Practitioners
- met regularly with the registered manager of the service
- spoke with three children and young people support workers
- spoke with the carer recruitment officer
- spoke with the senior referrals co-ordinator.
- spoke with the assessment manager responsible for foster carer approval assessments
- observed 2 annual foster care reviews chaired by an independent reviewing officer.
- observed a fostering panel led by an independent panel chair.
- met with the independent chair of the fostering panel.
- observed practice and daily life
- reviewed documents

In addition we considered responses to MS Questionnaires from young people, carers and staff.

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

- A high level of acceptance and understanding was reflected in enduring relationships young people experienced with caregiver families.
- Caregivers were clear in their role of preparing young people with life skills and promoting the development of these within the context of a stable and supportive home.
- Young people were able to get the support that they felt was right for them that was relative to their 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 people's wellbeing?	5 - Very Good
How well is our care and support planned?	4 - Good

Further details on the particular areas inspected are provided at the end of this report.

How well do we support people's wellbeing?

5 - Very Good

A number of strengths were identified which resulted in positive outcomes for children and young people, therefore an evaluation of very good has been awarded to this key question.

Young people experienced high quality, nurturing relationships which endured into young adulthood and beyond. This meant young people continued to be part of caring families and their networks, benefitting from the stability and support this provided.

The strong commitment of caregivers and highly individualised approach to meet young people's needs continued beyond childhood and was particularly evident where complex and significant needs were present.

The service was proactive in ensuring that young people's voices and wishes were heard by placing authorities in preparation for transition to young adulthood. We noted the effectiveness of this varied between Local Authorities and that the service has formalised increasingly robust escalation processes to address this.

Young people's safety and wellbeing is promoted by a robust and consistent approach to child and adult protection, which reflects best practice and national guidance in this area. Specific training in relation to continuing care and adult protection was completed by carers in preparation for their approval in this role.

This acted to support safety and wellbeing of those young people experiencing care. All carers had completed this and some had been involved in the development of this training.

Caregivers were clear in their role of preparing young people with life skills and promoting the development of these within the context of a stable and supportive home. There was clear support being offered to young people to learn independence skills in line with their age and stage of development without the pressure of moving on from the home.

Young people's health and wellbeing was actively supported and carers ensured access to appropriate community health services, including specialist resources. Carers worked effectively with other professionals and, when required, advocated on their behalf to ensure the, sometimes complex, needs of young people were met.

Timely access to specialist resources to support young people's health and wellbeing were also available through the fostering service. These were also available to others in the caring household promoting an holistic approach to ensuring high quality of support was experienced.

Caregiver families are comprehensively assessed to ensure that they have the capacity to meet the needs of young people and in line with their approval for continuing care. This continues to be reviewed at appropriate intervals and the views of young people and others within the caring household are sought to inform this review.

Young people and carers were given a strong message about their right to 'staying put' and remain living with their caregiver families into adulthood if this is their wish.

How well is our care and support planned?

4 - Good

We evaluated this key question as good, where several strengths impacted positively on outcomes experienced by young people and these outweighed areas for improvement.

We saw young people at the heart of planning their care. These supports and plans were relationship based and personalised to them. This meant that young people were able to get the support that they felt was right for them that was relative to their needs. For young people who were unable to advocate for themselves, carers took this forward based on a very good understanding of the young person's needs and preferences.

The service was proactive in ensuring that young people in continuing care had welfare assessments, pathway plans, and reviews of their care plan. We were confident that staff and carers were advocating and supporting young people to have their voices heard and that a newly developed escalation process will strengthen any difficulties in this area.

The processes for continuing care were clear and those providing this received specific training that helped them to understand the role and requirements. This led to carers who had a high capacity to fully support the young person in their care.

Individual safer caring plans were not routinely undertaken and there was not a consistent approach to considering how individual young people's needs, risks and outcomes are captured to ensure the service has an overview to inform care and support.

We advised the service to consider this in line with ongoing developments in their continuing care service and to adopt a consistent approach to the implementation of this.

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 people's wellbeing?	5 - Very Good
1.1 Children, young people, adults and their caregiver families experience compassion, dignity and respect	5 - Very Good
1.2 Children, young people and adults get the most out of life	5 - Very Good
1.3 Children, young people and adults' health and wellbeing benefits from the care and support they experience	5 - Very Good
1.4 Children, young people, adults and their caregiver families get the service that is right for them	5 - Very Good
How well is our care and support planned?	4 - Good
5.1 Assessment and care planning reflects the outcomes and wishes of children, young people and adults	4 - Good

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