

Newmachar After School Club Day Care of Children

Newmachar Primary School
7 School Road
Newmachar
Aberdeen
AB21 0WB

Telephone: 07900 680 123

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
13 December 2024

Service provided by:
Newmachar After School Club

Service provider number:
SP2003000522

Service no:
CS2003002660

About the service

Newmachar After School Club is situated in the village of Newmachar, Aberdeenshire.

The service is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 32 primary school-aged children at any one time when operating from Newmachar Primary School or a maximum of 24 primary school-aged children at any one time when operating from Newmachar Church.

We inspected the service whilst operating within Newmachar Primary School. Children have access to the school playground and multi-purpose sports court. The service is near a bus route and is close to local facilities, a playpark, and green space.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on 9 December 2024 between 15:00 and 17:30. The inspection was carried out by one inspector from the Care Inspectorate.

This follow up inspection focused on the requirement and areas for improvement made during the previous inspection and evaluated how the service had addressed these to improve outcomes for children. During this follow up inspection, we increased the evaluations for quality indicators 1.1 and 3.1 to 'adequate' because the service had made progress by building on key strengths.

To prepare for the inspection we reviewed information about this service. This included previous inspection findings, information submitted by the service, and intelligence gathered since the last inspection.

To inform our evaluation we:

- observed children's experiences
- spoke with staff and management
- observed staff practice
- reviewed documents.

Key messages

- Improvement was evident in all required areas made during the previous inspection. As a result, children's needs were being met more effectively.
- Children's personal plans had been reviewed and shared with parents. This enabled staff to better support children's care needs, interests, and preferences.
- Children had access to a variety of play materials. These could be easier accessed and some new resources had been purchased.
- Some improvements had been made to the room layout to make it more comfortable when playing or relaxing with friends.
- Some improvements had been made to the self evaluation and quality assurance practices. However, these were not fully implemented to support sustained improvement.

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 good is our care, play and learning?	3 - Adequate
How good is our leadership?	3 - Adequate

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

How good is our care, play and learning?

3 - Adequate

Following this inspection we have regraded this key question upwards. We have now evaluated this key question as 'adequate'. While the strengths had a positive impact on outcomes for children, key areas still need to improve.

We have provided further information in the following sections within this report: 'What the service has done to meet any requirements made at or since the last inspection' and 'What the service has done to meet any areas for improvement we made at or since the last inspection'.

How good is our leadership?

3 - Adequate

Following this inspection we have regraded this key question upwards. We have now evaluated this key question as 'adequate'. While the strengths had a positive impact on outcomes for children, key areas still need to improve.

We have provided further information in the following section within this report: 'What the service has done to meet any areas for improvement we made at or since the last inspection'.

What the service has done to meet any requirements we made at or since the last inspection

Requirements

Requirement 1

By 30 March 2024, the provider must ensure that children's care, welfare, and development needs are met by developing children's personal plans and ensuring staff use this information effectively.

To do this, the provider must, at a minimum, ensure:

- a) Personal plans set out children's current needs and preferences and how these will be met.
- b) Personal plans are reviewed in partnership with parents or carers at least once every six months, or sooner if required.

This is to comply with Regulation 5(2)(a) and (b) (Personal plans) of The Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland (Requirements for Care Services) Regulation 2011 (SSI 2011/2010).

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which state that: 'My personal plan (sometimes referred to as a care plan) is right for me because it sets out how my needs will be met, as well as my wishes and choices' (HSCS 1.15).

This requirement had not been met during the inspection 14 October 2024 and we agreed an extension until 2 December 2024.

This requirement was made on 14 October 2024.

Action taken on previous requirement

Children's personal plans had been reviewed and shared with parents. A summary sheet with information to promote staff's knowledge and understanding of children's support needs, likes, dislikes, and interests had been created.

For a few children this included information about children's medical care needs, food intolerances, and allergies. Staff were informed of any changes to the children's personal plans through the weekly meetings, contributing to staff knowing the children well.

The manager advised children's personal plans would be updated at least every six months, in line with legislation, and this should be embedded in practice.

Met - within timescales

What the service has done to meet any areas for improvement we made at or since the last inspection

Areas for improvement

Previous area for improvement 1

To promote children's understanding and enjoyment of healthy eating and drinking, the manager and staff should improve snack time experiences. This should include, but not be limited to, providing healthy and nutritious food choices and more opportunities to promote children's independence and responsibility.

The guidance 'Setting the Table', October 2024, may be helpful. It is found on the Care Inspectorate Hub.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which state that: 'I can choose suitably presented and healthy meals and snacks, including fresh fruit and vegetables, and participate in menu planning' (HSCS 1.33).

This area for improvement was made on 14 October 2024.

Action taken since then

Some improvements had been made to the snack time experience. Children were invited in small groups which led to less time queueing. They were offered a variety of healthy fruits and there were fewer food items containing high sugar and salt content.

However, fruit was cut up and prepared by staff and there were limited opportunities encouraging children's responsibility and independence.

This area for improvement has not been met and remains in place.

Previous area for improvement 2

To promote children's fun and enjoyment, the manager and staff should ensure children are provided with high quality play experiences and resources, relevant to their interests and stage of development.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which state that: 'As a child, I have fun as I develop my skills in understanding, thinking, investigation, and problem solving, including through imaginative play and storytelling' (HSCS 1.30).

This area for improvement was made on 14 October 2024.

Action taken since then

Some improvement had been made to improve the play experiences for children. Children had been consulted on what they wanted to do and a rota for sharing favourite computer games had been implemented as a result. There were some more toys and games available for children to play with.

However, to fully engage children's imagination and creativity, this should be further developed.

This area for improvement has not been met and remains in place.

Previous area for improvement 3

To ensure children's physical and emotional needs are met, the manager and staff should ensure the environment is well set out and includes comfortable and inviting spaces for children to relax and play quietly.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which state that: 'I have enough physical space to meet my needs and wishes' (HSCS 5.22).

This area for improvement was made on 14 October 2024.

Action taken since then

There have been some improvements to the layout of the room. This included more room for children to play on the floor. Two beanbags had been purchased and there were two mats for children to sit on the floor.

However, further improvements should be made. Staff should continue to evaluate how the space is used and adapt the space to meet the needs of the children attending.

This area for improvement has not been met and remains in place.

Previous area for improvement 4

To support improvement to the service and ensure good outcomes for children, the manager should ensure self evaluation and quality assurance of the service are embedded in practice.

This should include, but not be limited to, ensuring:

a) The vision, values, and aims for the setting are relevant, shared with children and their families, and are followed by staff.

b) Ensure effective quality assurance and self evaluation are in place which have involved staff, children, and parents and lead to continuous improvement.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which state that: 'I benefit from a culture of continuous improvement, with the organisation having robust and transparent quality assurance processes' (HSCS 4.19).

This area for improvement was made on 14 October 2024.

Action taken since then

The manager had prioritised children's personal plans to help ensure their safety and welfare. This led to improved experiences for children as staff were better informed about children's current care needs, likes, dislikes, and interests.

The vision, values, and aims for the setting had not yet been shared with children and their families to ensure they fully met their expectations.

A quality assurance calendar had been created to help the manager undertake self evaluation and quality assurance practices.

However, as yet this had not led to sustained improvement in areas such as snack or outdoor play.

This area for improvement has not been met and remains in place.

Previous area for improvement 5

In order to improve outcomes for children, the provider should ensure staff complete training and learning specific to their role and are competent in the application, including but not limited, to child protection and safeguarding.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which state that: 'I experience high quality care and support based on relevant evidence, guidance, and best practice' (HSCS 4.11).

This area for improvement was made on 14 October 2024.

Action taken since then

Most staff were trained in child protection, food hygiene, and infection prevention and control.

However, they had not yet undertaken any professional development in supporting children's play both indoors and outdoors.

This area for improvement has not been met and remains in place.

Previous area for improvement 6

To support children's wellbeing, learning, and development the provider should ensure that children have regular opportunities for outdoor play.

This should include, but is not limited to:

a) Increasing staff confidence, knowledge, and skills in providing safe, high quality outdoor play opportunities for children.

b) Providing regular access for children to outdoor areas and suitable play equipment.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which state that: 'As a child, I play outdoors every day and regularly explore a natural environment' (HSCS 1.32).

This area for improvement was made on 5 February 2024.

Action taken since then

The manager and staff described children enjoying outdoor play opportunities.

However, children were not offered outdoor play at the time of inspection.

This area for improvement has not been met and remains in place.

Previous area for improvement 7

To support positive outcomes for children, the provider should ensure that there are lines of management and leadership in place at all times. This should include, but not be limited to, designated roles and responsibilities for leadership within the staff team when the manager is not present in the setting.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which state that: 'I use a service and organisation that are well led and managed' (HSCS 4.23).

This area for improvement was made on 5 February 2024.

Action taken since then

The manager was not present during inspection. A more experienced member of staff was responsible for the day-to-day running of the service, however there was no handover or communication to support this.

During feedback, the manager advised recruitment for a deputy manager was ongoing and interviews for the post were in progress.

This area for improvement has not been met and remains in place.

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 good is our care, play and learning?	3 - Adequate
1.1 Nurturing care and support	3 - Adequate
1.3 Play and learning	3 - Adequate
How good is our leadership?	3 - Adequate
3.1 Quality assurance and improvement are led well	3 - Adequate

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