

# New Struan School

## School Care Accommodation Service

15-17  
Claremont  
Alloa  
FK10 2DF

Telephone: 01259 222 000

**Type of inspection:**  
Unannounced

**Completed on:**  
21 May 2025

**Service provided by:**  
Scottish Autism

**Service provider number:**  
SP2003000275

**Service no:**  
CS2003011477

## About the service

New Struan School is an independent special residential school provided by Scottish Autism. The service offers placements for up to 52 weeks a year, for up to 16 autistic young people who are also affected by a range of health conditions.

The service is located close to the centre of Alloa in Clackmannanshire and consists of a large Victorian mansion separated in to 4 main flats with further subdivision to meet individuals needs. The residential flats are located over two storeys, and each provides single bedrooms, mainly shared bathrooms and accessible showers, and a large open plan living, dining and kitchen room in each main flat. The residence has a large, private garden to the rear and is close to community services, leisure facilities and transport links.

## About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on 13, 14 and 15 May 2025. The inspection was carried out by two 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:

- spoke with people using the service and their representatives;
- spoke with 18 staff and management;
- observed practice and daily life;
- reviewed documents;
- spoke with visiting professionals.

## Key messages

Young people benefitted from warm, trusting relationships.

Significant improvement was required to ensure the environment was safe and catered for people's needs.

Leaders modelled high standards of trauma informed, person centred care.

Young people's choice, rights and views were of the utmost importance.

People benefitted from their education but the service needed to improve opportunities for those not attending school.

## 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?	3 - Adequate
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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?

### 3 - Adequate

We made an evaluation of adequate for this key question. Whilst strengths had a positive impact, key areas need to improve.

Young people living in New Struan were kept emotionally safe as they were cared for by a good team who had a strong understanding of each person's unique needs, preferences, and communication. Dynamic risk assessment and meaningful relationships with key professionals and families effectively contributed to protecting people from harm.

Whilst most people were physically safe, most of the time, the age, layout and general fabric and maintenance of the building was not sufficient to consistently ensure people lived in spaces that were safely tailored to their needs. The provider was committed to the upkeep and alteration to the old building, but the current, collective nature of building faults, posed a risk to the welfare of people living there. **(See requirement 1).**

The manager of the service passionately advocated for therapeutic care, in the least restrictive context. They modelled high standards of trauma informed practice that considered each person's neurodivergence, thus equipping the team to effectively provide people with stability and understanding. We were confident that restrictive practice was needs led and proportionate to risk but identified a need for leaders to improve how they notified the Care Inspectorate when the use of restrictive practice occurred. **(See area for improvement 1).**

Young people benefitted from warm, nurturing relationships. Staff were well matched and equipped to meet the needs of the individuals they cared for and this led to young people experiencing, predictability and consistency as they were well understood. Young people were respected and the team creatively ensured young people's voices were heard, choice was promoted, and people's rights were at the forefront of decision making.

Young people's general health was benefitting from stronger relationships the service had developed with primary care partners. This ensured young people could effectively access community-based services, without delay and often within their own environment. Where people required more specialist, hospital-based services, the team were having to repeatedly navigate access challenges that were often out with their control. The service needed support from their organisation to address these barriers at a higher level to ensure young people received the healthcare they needed in a way that reflected their needs. **(See area for improvement 2).**

As a school care accommodation service, most young people were successfully attending the associated school and the highly individualised and collaborative approach to learning ensured these young people were growing in confidence, building their skills and thriving. For young people who could no longer safely and meaningfully access the same education environment, the service remained committed to caring for them, but improvement was needed to ensure all young people in this position had alternative access to meaningful activity and learning opportunities that supported them to fulfil their potential. **(See area for improvement 3).**

Young people's care was underpinned by good quality personal plans, that captured their individual needs.

The service had plans to further develop these to ensure outcomes for all young people were promoted at every opportunity.

## Requirements

1. By 31 July 2025 you must ensure that the environment provides safe care to young people .

To do this you must at a minimum ensure that:

- a) All defects that present an immediate risk to young people are rectified.
- b) A programme of works is in place to rectify those defects that present a lower risk but effect the quality of peoples experiences.
- c) Expected standards of cleanliness are clearly identified and monitored in line with Infection prevention and control guidance.
- d) The service undertakes an assessment of young people's needs in relation to what they need from their environment, and and an action plan developed thereafter.

This is in order to comply with Regulation 4(1)(a) of The Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland (Requirements for Care Services) Regulations 2011 (SSI 2011/210)

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which state that:

'The premises have been adapted, equipped and furnished to meet my needs and wishes'. (HSCS 5.18)

## Areas for improvement

1. To support young people's wellbeing, the provider should ensure that all appropriate notifications are made to The Care Inspectorate.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which states that:

'I experience high quality care and support based on relevant evidence, guidance and best practice' (HSCS 4.11).

2. To support young people's health and wellbeing, the provider should ensure that there is an organisational mechanism to address barriers to specialist healthcare. This should include but is not exclusive to developing key leadership links within the local health partnerships that can support young people to access services in a way that is tailored to their needs.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which states that:-

'Any treatment or intervention that I experience is safe and effective'. ( HSCS 1.24)

'The organisations that support and care for me help tackle health and social inequalities'. (HSCS 4.2).

3. To support young people the provider should ensure that all young people can fulfil their potential. This should include but is not exclusive to, providing all young people who have stopped accessing the school service with a meaningful experience of learning and activity that is tailored to their needs or to access, where appropriate, alternative education.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which states that:

'I get the most out of life because the people and organisation who support and care for me have an enabling attitude and believe in my potential' (HSCS 1.6)

## 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 ensure young people's health and well being is promoted, the provider should ensure that young people have timely access to health care relevant to their needs.

This should include, but is not limited to Scottish Autism developing key relationships with health partners that support the team to access health services on young people's behalf.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which state that:

'My care and support is consistent and stable because people work together well'. (HSCS 3.19).

'If I am supported and cared for by a team or more than one organisation, this is well co-ordinated so that I experience consistency and continuity'. (HSCS 4.17).

**This area for improvement was made on 12 July 2023.**

#### Action taken since then

The service had developed links with key personnel in the assigned GP surgery, this was improving young people's access to primary care. More specialist health service continued to prove difficult to access in a way that reflected people's needs thus we have continued part of this area for improvement.

#### Previous area for improvement 2

To ensure young people's safety, the service should ensure that staff are recruited safely.

This should include, but is not limited to,

- a) reviewing current policy and process to align with safer recruitment guidance;
- b) to monitor recruitment as part of quality assurance process.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social care Standards (HSCS) which state that:

'I am confident that people who support and care for me have been appropriately and safely recruited'. (HSCS 4.24).

**This area for improvement was made on 12 July 2023.**

#### Action taken since then

The service had developed robust recruitment procedures with additional input for administration personnel, who ensured the process followed safer recruitment guidance.

This area for improvement is met.

## Previous area for improvement 3

To promote positive outcomes for young people, the service should review their quality assurance process.

This should include, but is not limited to;

- a) expanding their scrutiny of environment to include the communal stairwells and corridors,
- b) streamlining their processes and defining how quality assurance meaningfully promotes positive outcomes for young people.

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 process'. ( HSCS 4.19)

'I experience an environment that is well looked after with clean, tidy and well maintained premises, furnishings and equipment'. ( HSCS 5.24)

**This area for improvement was made on 12 July 2023.**

### Action taken since then

The service was implementing their organisation's robust quality assurances processes to effectively evaluate and monitor, incidents, staffing, training and recruitment. However the application of this quality assurance was not effectively supporting good environmental standards.

We have set a requirement that captures this.

## Complaints

Please see Care Inspectorate website ([www.careinspectorate.com](http://www.careinspectorate.com)) for details of complaints about the service which have been upheld.

## Detailed evaluations

How well do we support children and young people's rights and wellbeing?	3 - Adequate
7.1 Children and young people are safe, feel loved and get the most out of life	3 - Adequate



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