

# Gainhill Farmhouse Care Home Service

Kilmarnock

**Type of inspection:**  
Unannounced

**Completed on:**  
12 August 2025

**Service provided by:**  
Common Thread Ltd

**Service provider number:**  
SP2005007437

**Service no:**  
CS2018367595

## About the service

Gainhill Farmhouse is a care home for children and young people and is registered to provide care to a maximum of four children and young people. The service is comprised of two neighbouring detached houses; the Farmhouse provides accommodation for three children and young people and the Stables provides accommodation for one child or young person.

The service is one of a group of care homes provided by Common Thread Ltd and is located in a rural location in East Ayrshire, close to the town of Kilmarnock.

Two young people were living in the service at the time of the inspection.

## About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on 6 August 2025 (1200-1900 hours) and 7 August 2025 (1000 - 1800 hours). 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 one young people using the service;
- spoke with five staff and management;
- observed practice and daily life; and
- reviewed documents.

## Key messages

Young people benefited from stable, nurturing and warm relationships with staff in the service.

The service had a stable staff team that ensured consistency and the opportunity for young people to develop trusting and enduring relationships.

Care and support was specifically tailored to the young people and this was aligned to their needs and risk.

Young people's rights were promoted and staff proactively advocated on behalf of young people to ensure that their needs and views were represented.

Young people were engaged in their care and support and this was aided by the high level of individual, quality time that staff and young people spent together.

The health of the young people was a priority and staff were confident and knowledgeable in meeting young people's health 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.

Young people were kept safe at the service. The service worked well with other agencies and there was a strong understanding of individual roles, responsibilities and protection procedures. This was also based on trusting relationships and a sound understanding of young people's individual needs and what was required to keep them safe. One staff member told us, "Our young people are safe at Gainhill and appear to feel so, our younger young people regularly express that they are content living at Gainhill and care about their home.... and regularly use their voice to make suggestions for the house/ their own care plans."

Young people's care plans and risk management plans identified young people's needs and risks and were aligned to the care and support provided. These service records were completed consistently and updated regularly. We discussed with the service that the quality of these could be improved with greater analysis and adherence to smart, measurable, achievable, realistic and timebound (SMART) principles. We were encouraged to learn that the service have recently carried out training workshops on this and the provider intends to review systems to facilitate quality planning and review.

Young people had good networks of support external to the service. Strong collaborative relationships were evident between the service and other key agencies involved in young people's lives. The need for advocacy was well understood and promoted. Staff proactively advocated on behalf of young people to ensure that their needs and views were represented in decision-making forums. There was a positive culture and attitude towards complaints practice. Relationships within the service enabled young people to be vocal about what they needed from those that cared for them. This reflected the service's practice and commitment towards protecting and upholding young people's rights.

Young people experienced therapeutic and stable care. This was greatly enabled by a consistent and committed staff team. There was a compassionate and warm atmosphere within the service. Young people were fully accepted and 'claimed' as individuals. Respectful and nurturing relationships were central to the care provided and were the foundation to the work undertaken with young people to support them to make progress on difficulties.

Young people were fully engaged in their care and support. Young people participated in shaping the care that they received and in the decisions that affect them. This was enabled by the culture and relationships in the service and the high level of individual, quality time that staff and young people spent together on a daily basis.

The health needs of the young people were a priority in the service and staff were knowledgeable and confident in supporting and managing both generic and specific health needs. Young people trusted staff and were able to confide in them with any health concerns they had. We were impressed by the gentle and respectful care that was carefully attuned to the very specific, individual health needs of young people.

Young people's connections to family and friends were very much promoted and nurtured. This had a positive impact on their emotional wellbeing and development. Individual ambitions, life skills and interests were also well supported. New experiences and having fun contributed to young people's confidence and wellbeing.

Young people received individual support to engage in their education and learning. The service collaborated well with educational services and contributed to multi-agency reviews that planned for young people's education. There was measurable progress in one young person's educational outcomes and engagement within education. An external professional told us, "All members of leadership are approachable and effective in their role. They all work hard to ensure the best outcomes for the young people in the service....The service communicates well with school.. They take any concerns raised seriously and work effectively to address these."

## 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 effective planning for young people's care plans should contain and use all relevant information about how specific needs and risks are assessed. This should include involving the young person, recording their wishes and recognising progress, strengths, ability, and areas to be supported.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards which states 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 area for improvement was made on 4 May 2023.**

#### Action taken since then

Young people were fully engaged in their care and support. Their views were sought and included within the careplans that were individually tailored. We have concluded that this area for improvement has been met however would urge the service/provider to continue to focus on ensuring the quality of plans and that these are specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and timebound (SMART).

### Complaints

There have been no complaints upheld since the last inspection. Details of any older upheld complaints are published at [www.careinspectorate.com](http://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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