

Camphill School and Care Home Services Aberdeen Care Home Service

Camphill Rudolf Steiner School
Murtle House
Bielside
Aberdeen
AB15 9EP

Telephone: 01224 867935

Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 1 August 2017

Service provided by:
Camphill Rudolf Steiner Schools Limited

Service provider number:
SP2003000021

Care service number:
CS2009196657

About the service

Camphill School and Care Home Services Aberdeen is registered with the Care Inspectorate to provide a care home service to a maximum of 64 children and young people across 11 houses. The service is set in two locations in a rural environment on the outskirts of Aberdeen.

Camphill School and Care Home Services Aberdeen is an independent charity offering education, care and therapy for children and young people with additional support needs, using a social pedagogical approach based on the principles of Rudolf Steiner. It is accredited with the National Autistic Society.

Camphill state their mission:

'To create a community where children and adults feel a sense of belonging, support and personal growth. A place where there is an inclusive life learning culture with an integrated approach to health, education and care'.

The Care Inspectorate regulates care services in Scotland. Information about all care services is available on our website at www.careinspectorate.com

This service has been registered since 2010.

What people told us

Throughout the two days of the inspection both inspectors joined young people for meals in different houses. They spoke to young people who were able to communicate verbally and observed others in the company of staff.

Young people spoken with described a range of events and activities they had been involved in during the summer holidays. During the inspection there were planned events each day with young people walking and picnicking to local hills.

Young people were observed to be well supported by workers who treated them with warmth and kindness and who were interested in their views (whether expressed verbally or in other ways).

Questionnaires which were returned by young people and their parents were extremely positive. In response to the question 'Overall I am happy with the quality of service you receive', two replied 'very happy' and five 'happy'.

A social worker visiting the service at the time of the inspection was extremely happy with the care and progress the young person they were visiting had made. They were highly complimentary about the service and the real benefit to the young person in living there.

Self assessment

In the inspection year 2017/18 no self assessment was requested by the Care Inspectorate.

From this inspection we graded this service as:

Quality of care and support	5 - Very Good
Quality of environment	5 - Very Good
Quality of staffing	not assessed
Quality of management and leadership	not assessed

What the service does well

The social pedagogical approach to the care and education of children and young people promoted quality outcomes, with all young people benefitting from a flexible and creative care and support tailored to meet their unique needs.

Considerable attention was paid to the physical environment and the routine and rhythm of the day resulting in a calm and relaxed environment which contributed to the positive health and wellbeing of the young people living at Camphill.

Young people lived in homely, comfortable, warm, welcoming houses. They had individual rooms which were personalised. Communal areas were homely with a wide range of resources such as musical instruments, crafts, games and books. Young people were heavily involved in the life of their house and the wider estate they lived on.

Throughout the day in both the care and education settings young people had high levels of support which ensured they were able to benefit from the wide range of interesting tasks and activities which promoted their confidence and supported them to develop a range of skills.

Outdoor play equipment, a variety of interesting workshops and use of the outdoor environment for growing food and plants contributed to the opportunities young people had to be included in the life of the community. New on site developments included a care farm to provide further opportunities for young people to be involved in the care of animals in a farm setting. Young people have also been successful in achieving the Duke of Edinburgh Award (including the Gold Award), continued eco schools status and a FairAware Award (Fairtrade schools).

Young people's healthcare needs were well met with an on-site medical practice and access to a range of complimentary therapies including speech and language therapists, art and music therapists, physiotherapists, psychiatrists and mental health nurses. Medication systems were well-managed and reviewed regularly. A healthy approach to eating was supported and encouraged. Mealtimes were important social occasions where young people had the opportunity to discuss their day and interact with others, to develop skills and to share with others in household tasks. All young people and staff contributed in some way to the mealtime experience and were valued for their contribution.

The service had a detailed child protection policy and each campus had a child protection officer. Child protection training was delivered as part of the induction for new staff, and on an on-going basis thereafter. Staff generally

had a good awareness of young people's safety with high levels of support and supervision and appropriate risk assessment in place.

A wide range of health and safety checks ensured the safety of the houses, the outdoor environment and transport. Identified staff were responsible for checks, repairs and audits with action plans in place for any remedial or improvement works to be completed. External companies were employed to ensure the safety and servicing of equipment which needed specialist knowledge.

Young people's care, support and learning was detailed in their annual personal plan, individual education plans and coordinated support plans. Plans included strategies of support, risk assessment and agreed physical intervention techniques. The documents were regularly reviewed and outcome focussed. The service also discussed the use of positive behaviour support plans to support staff to identify early warning signs of anxiety and how these can be best supported and monitored.

What the service could do better

The service should consider how they can improve the accessibility of young people's support plans to the co-workers caring for them. Their care needs were shared and discussed in a number of ways, however, the plans were not readily accessible.

Daily recording documents should be reviewed to ensure they are purposeful and outcome focussed and link to the outcomes and targets identified in the support plan. More focussed recording would support staff to identify the progress young people are making, or necessary changes to their support where they are not. **(See recommendation 1).**

Some of the houses were in need of upgrade to improve the living environment. The facilities manager had completed an audit and was fully aware of the areas which needed to be improved. The environmental health department had also visited and made recommendations which the service needed to action (many of which were actioned at the time of the inspection). **(See recommendation 2).**

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 2

1. Support plans should be fully accessible to staff. The format of daily notes should be reviewed to ensure they are purposeful and outcome focussed.

National Care Standards Care Homes for Children and Young People - Standard 4: Support Arrangements.

2. Identified areas of the houses young people live in should be improved to ensure their environment is of a high standard.

National Care Standard Care Homes for Children and Young People - Standard 5: Your environment.

Complaints

There have been no complaints upheld since the last inspection. Details of any older upheld complaints are published at www.careinspectorate.com.

Inspection and grading history

Date	Type	Gradings
5 May 2016	Unannounced	Care and support 4 - Good Environment Not assessed Staffing 5 - Very good Management and leadership Not assessed
20 Aug 2015	Unannounced	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment 5 - Very good Staffing 5 - Very good Management and leadership 4 - Good
17 Sep 2014	Unannounced	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment 5 - Very good Staffing 5 - Very good Management and leadership 4 - Good
17 Oct 2013	Unannounced	Care and support 4 - Good Environment 5 - Very good Staffing 5 - Very good Management and leadership 4 - Good
9 Oct 2012	Unannounced	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment 5 - Very good Staffing 5 - Very good Management and leadership 5 - Very good
28 Feb 2012	Unannounced	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment Not assessed

Date	Type	Gradings	
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	Not assessed
3 May 2011	Unannounced	Care and support	4 - Good
		Environment	4 - Good
		Staffing	4 - Good
		Management and leadership	4 - Good

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