

ANGUS COUNCIL

CHILDREN AND LEARNING COMMITTEE

29 JANUARY 2019

CARE INSPECTORATE INSPECTION OF SUPPORTED LODGINGS SCHEME

BACKGROUND

As a minimum, the Care Inspectorate conduct annual unannounced inspections for registered services, that is care homes for older people; care homes for adults; care homes for children and young people; support services - care at home and secure accommodation. All other services such as pre-school centres receive a minimum frequency of inspection based on an intelligence-led risk assessment and previous performance.

The inspector evaluates registered services using a framework of quality themes linked to the National Care Standards:

- Quality of care and support
- Quality of environment
- Quality of staffing
- Quality of management and leadership
-

The Supported Lodging Scheme, Adult Placement Service was inspected on 4 September 2018. The inspection report was published in November 2018 and can be found at [Inspection Report](#)

The service is a component of the Angus Council Throughcare and Aftercare Team. The service provides previously Looked After and Accommodated young people the opportunity to live in the home of a carer who has been assessed and approved by the council's Supported Carers Panel.

The Supported Lodgings Scheme aims to 'bridge the transition from the care system to independent living by offering a supportive environment in which young people can develop life skills and confidence' and 'to provide young people with the opportunity to live in a supportive home environment to develop the skills required for fully independent living - a time to mature emotionally'.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTION OUTCOME

What the service does well

- A number of Supported Lodging Providers (SLPs) were caring for young people on a fostering basis and made the transition to SLP to allow for continuity of placement. This is laudable. The service provides young people with a resource that allows them to develop their life skills in a supportive environment, helping prepare them to live independently.
- We found that the Supported Lodging Scheme provided very good support to Supported Lodging Providers (SLPs) who in turn provided very good care and support to young people.
- Young people trusted SLPs and told us that they were well cared for and supported. We saw that the service had very good procedures in place to match young people with SLPs.
- Conversions from foster carer to SLP had provided young people with consistency and continuing care and support.
- Very good placement review arrangements were in place that involved the service leader, two team managers and the manager of the service.

- Young people had been helped to achieve, with three young people attending university, five attending college and two attending school. All were in long-term, stable placements where they felt "part of the family". Young people told us that they could discuss any issues with their SLP.
- SLPs told us that they were well supported. They had the opportunity to attend the SLP support group. In addition to access to workers, this forum allowed for interaction with peers and occasional guest speakers, the most recent being the National Health Service who provided suicide awareness training. We saw that training opportunities were available to SLPs, who also had access to the foster care training programme. SLPs had recently completed training in child protection, working with children with disabilities, child development, health and safety, supporting young people leaving care and communicating with young people.
- In discussion with SLPs, it was clear that they regularly used their initiative and experience to support the health and wellbeing of young people. This included issues and choices relating to diet, exercise, independent travel, education and employment
- The service was committed to consulting with SLPs, young people and other professionals to improve service delivery and outcomes for young people. Exit interviews took place and we saw that returned questionnaires were very positive about the service.
- Communication between professionals directly supporting young people and workers supporting SLPs, was regular, and effective, and played a key part in sustaining effective placements.
- We found that the service was well-managed and staffed.
- The manager, the resource worker and the social care officer held a range of appropriate qualifications and had access to Angus Council's training programme.
- The service was represented in Supported Lodgings and Continuing Care sub groups of the Scotland wide Throughcare and Aftercare Forum (STAF). This enabled staff to work to current best practice. All staff were trained to a level that allowed for, or will allow for, registration with the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC). We found that they had a very good knowledge of the SSSC Code of Practice and the new Health and Social Care Standards.
- A very good model of staff supervision was in place, with workers describing a supportive and supporting working environment.

What the service could do better

- There was a degree of anxiety amongst staff and SLPs regarding a forthcoming review of provision. The manager, workers and SLPs should be kept informed of developments.
- The service should continue to work to its own improvement agenda

RECOMMENDATIONS

There were no recommendations.

REQUIREMENTS

There were no requirements.

INSPECTION GRADES

Quality of care and support	5 – Very good
Quality of environment	not assessed
Quality of staffing	5 – Very good
Quality of management and leadership	not assessed

Contact for further information: Kathryn Lindsay (Head of Service – Children, Families & Justice)
Email: people@angus.gov.uk