

Inspection report

Strathallan School School Care Accommodation Service

Forgandenny
Perth PH2 9EG

Inspected by: Philip Yeaman
(Care Commission Officer)

Type of inspection: Unannounced

Inspection completed on: 26 June 2009

Service Number

CS2006114915

Service name

Strathallan School

Service addressForgandenny
Perth PH2 9EG**Provider Number**

SP2006008030

Provider Name

Strathallan School

Inspected ByPhilip Yeaman
Care Commission Officer**Inspection Type**

Unannounced

Inspection Completed

26 June 2009

Period since last inspection**Local Office Address**Central East Region,
Compass House,
11 Riverside Drive,
Dundee
DD1 4NY

Introduction

Strathallan School, located close to the city of Perth, is registered with the Care Commission as a School Care Accommodation Service. It provides boarding accommodation for pupils from the UK and overseas within seven boarding houses. The School can accommodate up to 422 boarders at any one time.

Strathallan aims 'to provide boys and girls from 9 to 18 years of age with such a range of academic work, games and activities that there is an opportunity for everyone to excel at something'.

Based on the findings of this inspection the service has been awarded the following grades:
Quality of Care and Support - 5 - Very Good
Quality of Environment - 5 - Very Good

This inspection report and grades represent the Care Commission's assessment of the quality of the areas of performance which were examined during this inspection.

Grades for this care service may change following other regulatory activity. Please refer to the care services register on the Care Commission's website (www.carecommission.com) for the most up-to-date grades for this service.

Basis of Report

This inspection report is based on an unannounced inspection visits to Strathallan School on 19 and 26 June, 2009. The inspection was carried out by CCO Philip Yeaman and focussed on progress made by the School in response to areas for development identified in the last inspection report.

Regulation Support Assessment

The inspection plan for this service was decided after a Regulation Support Assessment (RSA) was carried out to determine the intensity of inspection necessary. The RSA is an assessment undertaken by the Care Commission Officer (CCO) which considers complaints activity, changes in the provision of the service, nature of notifications made to the Care Commission by the service (such as absence of a manager) and action taken upon requirements. The CCO will also have considered how the service responded to situations and issues as part of the RSA.

This assessment resulted in this service receiving a low RSA score and so a low intensity inspection was required. The inspection was based on the relevant Inspection Focus Areas and associated National Care Standards, recommendations and requirements from previous inspections and complaints or other regulatory activity.

During the inspection process

Staff at inspection

The inspection was carried out by CCO Philip Yeaman.

Evidence

During the inspection evidence was gathered from a number of sources including:
a review of records and documentation

Discussion with pupils

discussion with the Second Master

The above information was taken into account during the inspection process and was reported on.

Inspection Focus Areas and links to Quality Themes and Statements for 2008/09

Details of the inspection focus and associated Quality Themes to be used in inspecting each type of care service in 2008/09 and supporting inspection guidance, can be found at:
<http://www.carecommission.com/>

Fire Safety Issues

The Fire (Scotland) Act 2005 introduced new regulatory arrangements in respect of fire safety, on 1 October 2006. In terms of those arrangements, responsibility for enforcing the statutory provisions in relation to fire safety now lies with the Fire and Rescue service for the area in which a care service is located. Accordingly, the Care Commission will no longer report on matters of fire safety as part of its regulatory function, but, where significant fire safety issues become apparent, will alert the relevant Fire and Rescue service to their existence in order that it may act as it considers appropriate. Further advice on your responsibilities is available at www.infoscotland.com/firelaw

Action taken on requirements since last Inspection

There were no requirements made during the previous inspection.

Comments on Self Assessment

A completed self assessment was submitted prior to the previous inspection.

View of Service Users

A number of pupils were interviewed during the inspection visit. Their comments and views contributed the findings of the inspection process.

View of Carers

The views of carers were not sought during this inspection.

Quality Theme 1: Quality of Care and Support

Overall CCO Theme Grading: 5 - Very Good

Statement 1: We ensure that service users and carers participate in assessing and improving the quality of the care and support provided by the service.

Service Strengths

This quality statement should be read in conjunction with the report from the inspection carried out in January 2009.

The School continued to perform to a very good standard in regard to this quality statement. During the inspection visit groups of pupils commented on a number of methods the School used to ensure pupils' participation in assessing and improving the care and support offered. Pupils were able to comment on positive outcomes which had enhanced their experience at School through use of the Food Committee and house forum groups. Pupils commented positively on the very good system the School has in place for communicating with parents.

The service was found to have a very good performance in relation to this statement and the grade awarded in the previous inspection report is reconfirmed.

Areas for Development

There were no further areas for development identified at this time.

CCO Grading

5 - Very Good

Number of Requirements

0

Number of Recommendations

0

Statement 3: We ensure that service user's health and wellbeing needs are met.

Service Strengths

This quality statement should be read in conjunction with the report from the inspection carried out in January 2009.

The School continued to meet the health and welfare needs of pupils to a very good standard. Pupils commented on the very good medical support they had from the Medical Centre and also from the local GP practice linked to the School. Pupils confirmed the very good work of the Food Committee. The Committee, who met regularly and canvassed all pupils for their comments regarding the quality and portions of food, now included a parent. The Second Master stated that the Director of Activities was involved in supporting pupils by

developing independent personal programmes for developing pupils' fitness levels. The School had recently identified the new academic years' Prefect Group. The team met with the CCO during the inspection and were keen to share their duties for the coming year. Prefects had started a training programme designed by the School to support them in their role.

The service was found to have a very good performance in relation to this statement and the grade awarded in the previous inspection report is reconfirmed.

Areas for Development

There were no further areas for development identified at this time.

CCO Grading

5 - Very Good

Number of Requirements

0

Number of Recommendations

0

Quality Theme 2: Quality of Environment

Overall CCO Theme Grading: 5 - Very Good

Statement 1: We ensure that service users and carers participate in assessing and improving the quality of the environment within the service.

Service Strengths

This quality statement should be read in conjunction with the report from the inspection carried out in January 2009.

At the time of the inspection the School were waiting for the completion of a new boarding house. Pupils confirmed that some senior pupils had been involved in the process of selecting furniture and other items for this. Pupils had been asked to "name" the new house. Pupils had also been involved in designing a new house crest and were consulted on the new "House Colours".

The service was found to have a very good performance in relation to this statement and the grade awarded in the previous inspection report is reconfirmed.

Areas for Development

There were no further areas for development identified at this time.

CCO Grading

5 - Very Good

Number of Requirements

0

Number of Recommendations

0

Statement 4: The accommodation we provide ensures that the privacy of service users is respected.

Service Strengths

This quality statement should be read in conjunction with the report from the inspection carried out in January 2009.

The School had identified the need to further develop the school handbook to provide a more "user friendly" edition. The Second Master stated the School now published key information from handbooks in a variety of languages, including Cantonese, German, Mandarin, Russian and Spanish.

The service was found to have a very good performance in relation to this statement and the grade awarded in the previous inspection report is reconfirmed.

Areas for Development

There were no further areas for development identified at this time.

CCO Grading

5 - Very Good

Number of Requirements

0

Number of Recommendations

0

Quality Theme 3: Quality of Staffing

Overall CCO Theme Grading: 0 - Not Assessed

Quality Theme 4: Quality of Management and Leadership

Overall CCO Theme Grading: 0 - Not Assessed

Regulations / Principles

National Care Standards

Enforcement

There has been no enforcement action against this service since the last inspection.

Other Information

None.

Requirements**Recommendations**

Philip Yeaman

Care Commission Officer