



# INSPECTION OF WOODLANDS JUVENILE JUSTICE CENTRE

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The Education and Training Inspectorate  
Promoting Improvement



The Regulation and  
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Authority



# Woodlands



## INSPECTION OF WOODLANDS JUVENILE JUSTICE CENTRE

In January 2022 a group of Inspectors visited Woodlands Juvenile Justice Centre (we have called it Woodlands for short in the rest of this document) to look at how children and young people were treated.

Children and young people between 10 and 17 years old can be in Woodlands because they have been or the police believe they have been involved in criminal activity or for their own safety. This is called 'in detention' or 'custody.'

Inspectors do not work for Woodlands or the Youth Justice Agency. Their job is to look at how young people are cared for in custody and the learning, skills and health services provided to them.



**Inspectors looked at:**

-  how well Woodlands works (Strategy and governance);
  -  that children and young people are held safely (Safety);
  -  that children and young people are cared for (Care);
  -  there is plenty for children and young people to do (Purposeful activity); and
  -  how children and young people are helped to prepare for leaving Woodlands (Resettlement).
-  At the end of the visit we wrote a report that has been published. It can be found at [www.cjini.org/TheInspections/Inspection-Reports](http://www.cjini.org/TheInspections/Inspection-Reports)

**THIS SHORT REPORT EXPLAINS:**





## STRATEGY AND GOVERNANCE



- There were still some COVID-19 pandemic restrictions in place when we visited. We were worried that children could not meet and mix together. Children told us they were bored when they had to isolate.
- Very small numbers of children came to Woodlands but it had a lot of staff and it was very expensive to run.
- We know that some children come to Woodlands from Lakewood Secure Care Centre (Lakewood) or go there afterwards. We thought that they should work more closely together and learn from each other.

## SAFETY



- We found that children and young people were held safely.
- There was a lot of good work done to make sure children and young people were kept safe when they first arrived.
- The number of times that children had been restrained was lower than the last time Inspectors visited.
- All children and young people who spoke to Inspectors said that they felt safe both in their rooms and in communal areas.
- They said this was mostly because of the staff at Woodlands.

## CARE



- We found that young people were well cared for by staff and the children we spoke to said that they felt cared for.
- Children and young people got on well with their key workers.
- Some of the living areas were showing signs of wear. We thought that more could be done to make bedrooms more personal.
- The quality and quantity of the food was mostly good.
- We thought that health services were good.

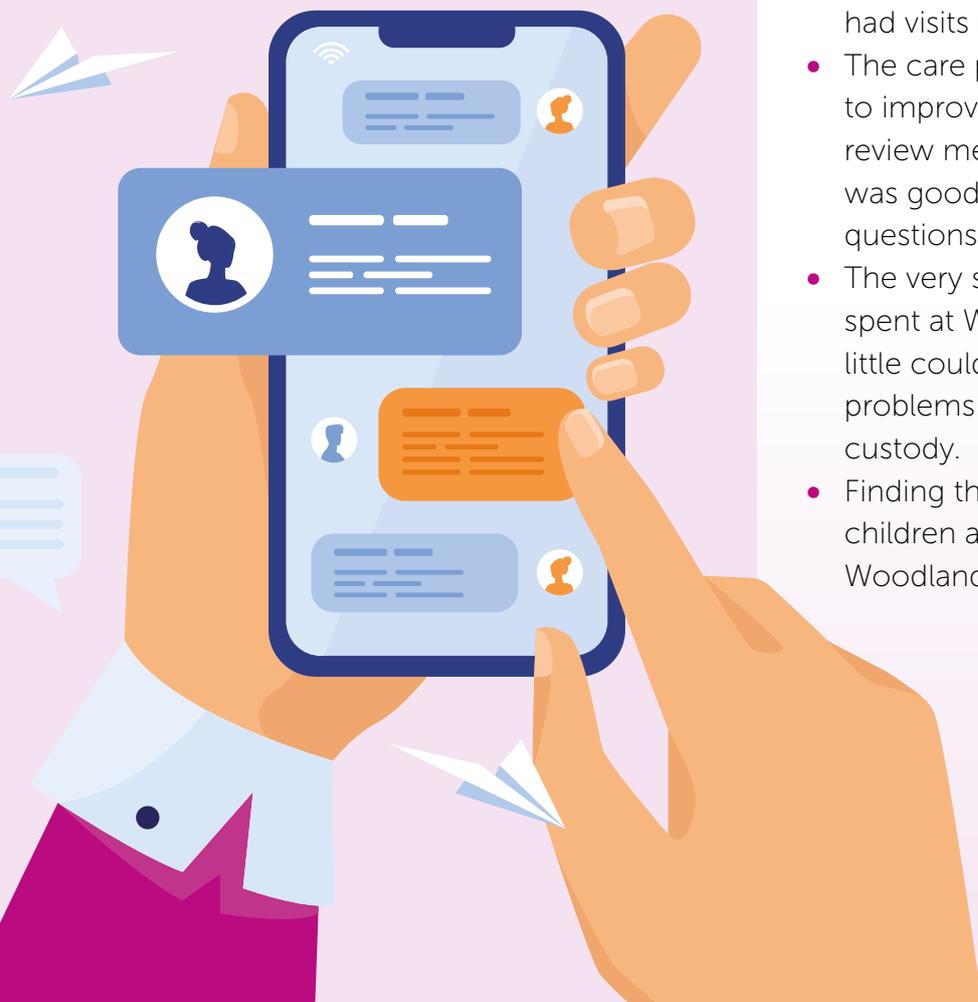


## PURPOSEFUL ACTIVITY



- Children and young people spent a large part of their day out of their bedrooms.
- Young people told us they could spend time outdoors and said that staff would go for walks with them.
- The school was good and so were the physical education and fitness spaces. There is a swimming pool on site.
- Education, learning and skills were better than the last time we visited.

## RESETTLEMENT



- Young people could speak to family and friends often by telephone.
- Not many children or their families had visits by video calls.
- The care planning process needed to improve. We went to two care review meetings. We thought that it was good that the children could ask questions about their care.
- The very short time that young people spent at Woodlands meant that very little could be done to help with the problems they had before coming into custody.
- Finding the right accommodation for children and young people leaving Woodlands was difficult.



## WHAT INSPECTORS WANT TO SEE DONE BETTER IN THE FUTURE?



When Inspectors want to see changes made they make what are called 'recommendations.' These tell staff and managers what we would like done differently to improve what they are doing.

**In this Inspection we made 12 recommendations. They covered:**

### STRATEGY AND GOVERNANCE

- ▶ How Woodlands works with Lakewood in the future.
- ▶ Staff training.
- ▶ How information is used to make better plans or decisions in the future.
- ▶ Learning from what happened during the COVID-19 pandemic.

### SAFETY

- ▶ The recording of times when restraint is used on children and young people.
- ▶ How time spent by young people locked in their rooms on their own, called single separation, is used.
- ▶ Do more to ensure everyone is treated equally and that differences between young people are promoted and advice for staff on what to do when a transsexual child comes to Woodlands.
- ▶ How medicines are looked after.

### CARE

- ▶ Better care plans.

### PURPOSEFUL ACTIVITY

- ▶ We didn't make any recommendations about this.

### RESETTLEMENT

- ▶ The transfer of children and young people to Hydebank Wood Secure College or Ash House Women's Prison when they are 18.





## WHAT HAPPENS NOW?

The recommendations we made have been accepted and leaders, managers and staff will do some work on the things that we said should improve. We will then go back and check how things are going.

Thank you for reading this short report



[www.cjini.org/TheInspections/Inspection-Reports](http://www.cjini.org/TheInspections/Inspection-Reports)



## WANT TO KNOW MORE?

If you want know more you can watch our video on our **CJI YouTube channel**, look at our Twitter feed **@CJININews** or you can read the full report, at [www.cjini.org/TheInspections/Inspection-Reports](http://www.cjini.org/TheInspections/Inspection-Reports)



**Criminal Justice Inspection  
Northern Ireland**  
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If you would like to know anything more about us or this inspection please get in touch with:

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