

Inspection report for Children's Home

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About this inspection

The purpose of this inspection is to assure children and young people, parents, the public, local authorities and government of the quality and standard of the service provided. The inspection was carried out under the Care Standards Act 2000.

This report details the main strengths and any areas for improvement identified during the inspection. The judgements included in the report are made in relation to the outcomes for children set out in the Children Act 2004 and the relevant National Minimum Standards for the service.

The inspection judgements and what they mean

Outstanding:	this aspect of the provision is of exceptionally high quality
Good:	this aspect of the provision is strong
Satisfactory:	this aspect of the provision is sound
Inadequate:	this aspect of the provision is not good enough

Service information

Brief description of the service

The home is a short stay residential home for children and young people with physical and/or learning disabilities. It is run by an independent not-for-profit organisation working to meet the needs of children and adults with physical and learning disabilities. The home provides care to meet the child's and young person's physical, social and emotional needs during their stay. It is registered to provide care for up to seven children or young people at any one time. Day care is also provided.

The home is sited in a residential area and accommodation is arranged over two floors. The house offers five bedrooms, one which is a double room, on the first floor and communal areas on the ground floor consisting of a lounge, dining room/conservatory and kitchen. The first floor does not have wider hallways or doors, which can make it difficult to move children or young people that use a wheelchair. Suitably adapted bathroom and toilet facilities are available on both floors. A lift is provided between floors. The home has a front garden, which provides access to the home and a rear garden used for the children and young people's play.

Due to the reduction in occupancy levels, the home closes on certain days each week, unless there are planned bookings or it is a school holiday. When children and young people are accommodated in the home there are at least two members of staff on each shift. At night there is one waking and one sleep-in member of staff.

At the time of this inspection, seven children and young people were being cared for in the home. This included children and young people who were staying for overnight care and those who were staying for day care.

Summary

The overall quality rating is good.

This is an overview of what the inspector found during the inspection.

The unannounced inspection focused on the staying safe outcome area of the national minimum standards and the two recommendations from previous inspection. These were to ensure all staff undertake appropriate fire training at regular intervals. A monitoring system has now been put in place that checks that staff attending appropriate fire training.

The service was asked to implement the home's procedures for monitoring visitors to the home correctly by ensuring appropriate identity checks are undertaken prior to admission. This is now in place.

Two recommendations were identified from today's inspection. One is to ensure that all significant incidents have a logged written evaluation and the second is to

consider the updating of staff safeguarding training on a frequent basis.

This home provides a caring, calm and appropriately stimulating environment for children and young people on a respite basis. Staff are competent to care for children and young people with a range needs including complex needs. Children and young people are respected and their need for privacy is respected. Staff are sensitive to children and young people's behaviours and respond positively to their needs.

Staff have a broad range of communication skills that allow for effective communication with children and young people.

The setting works with parents to ensure there is effective identification of need and agreed actions to respond to those needs. There is also effective communication with other stakeholders including the placing authorities.

Improvements since the last inspection

Two recommendations from previous inspection. The first was to ensure all staff undertake appropriate fire training at regular intervals. The manager has put in place a monitoring system to enable easy scrutiny of timely training taking place for all staff. The second was to implement the home's procedures for monitoring visitors to the home correctly by ensuring appropriate identity checks are undertaken prior to admission. The manager has reminded staff of the need to check visitors identification before allowing entry to the home. This was found to be practiced at today's visit.

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is not judged.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children and young people's privacy is respected whilst ensuring that they have appropriate supervision to safeguard them. Their care needs are assessed and whenever possible children and young people provide for their own intimate care needs and when necessary staff are at hand to help. Confidential information is managed sensitively and kept in a locked facility.

Parents are provided with good written and verbal information about how to make a complaint. One complaint is logged since the last inspection and was well managed. The setting has comprehensive safeguarding procedures that are readily available. Staff are familiar with guidance and receive safeguarding training and support. Appropriate measures are taken to protect children and young people; good

assessment is reported and documented. The staff are experienced and provide a caring and stimulating environment that promotes children and young people's welfare. There are less opportunities for staff to undertake more regular training to maintain their knowledge and awareness of appropriate actions to take.

Bullying behaviour is unlikely in this setting. Any aggressive or other behaviours that could be construed as bullying would be assessed and managed within the child or young person's behaviour plan. Policy and guidance is in place. Children and young people in this setting have profound learning and physical disabilities and are very unlikely to abscond from the setting. Policy and guidance are in place for use if necessary.

Staff follow policy and appropriate people are notified of incidents. A log is in place and generally comprehensively completed with details of actions taken including outcomes. One incident is recorded and the child or young person's welfare was safeguarded and appropriate people notified; however the final outcome and evaluation was not recorded.

The setting provides a calm and appropriately stimulating environment for children and young people. Staff are aware of the setting's policies and guidance and are provided with training and support to enable them to effectively and positively manage children and young people's behaviour. Staff speak with knowledge of individual children or young people regarding trigger factors. 'Positive Behaviour Plans' are in place that assess risks and identify early signs of distress or frustration as well as actions to take to promote positive behaviour. Staff ensure that they are familiar with the child or young person's behaviour plans and know actions to take to avoid the child or young person being distressed. Children and young people are well supervised with most having one-to-one attention. Most children or young people are unable to communicate verbally and staff are attentive to how children or young people do communicate their feelings.

Systems are in place to ensure staff have appropriate fire risk and evacuation training this is monitored by the manager. Health and Safety policy and procedures are in place. Risk assessments are undertaken on an individual basis and actions to protect children and young people are written in their care plans. Inspection of equipment to ensure in working order is carried regularly and appropriately recorded, any deficiencies identified are reported for action in a timely fashion.

The organisations recruitment process is robust to secure protection for children and young people. An induction programme is provided to support staff into the organisation and to the setting. All required checks were in place on all five members of staff. Identify of visitors to the home is requested.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is not judged.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is not judged.

Achieving economic wellbeing

The provision is not judged.

Organisation

The organisation is not judged.

What must be done to secure future improvement?

Recommendations

To improve the quality and standards of care further the registered person should take account of the following recommendation(s):

- ensure the provision of regular training for all staff members in the prevention of abuse, recognition of abuse, including its recognition in non-verbal children, dealing with suspicions of abuse; ensure this training is on-going in keeping with the aims and objectives of the home and so that staff are up-to-date (NMS17.8).
- ensure the written record of significant incidents includes the evaluation and outcomes of the incident and any action taken. (NMS 20.3)