

SC004085

Registered provider: Diverse Abilities Plus Ltd.

Interim inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home is a short-break residential home for children who have severe physical and/or learning disabilities. It is run by an independent charitable organisation. It is registered to provide care and accommodation for up to four children at one time, and day care is also provided.

Inspection date: 16 February 2018

Judgement at last inspection: good

Date of last inspection: 17 May 2017

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

This inspection

The effectiveness of the home and the progress and experiences of children and young people since the most recent full inspection

This home was judged good at the last full inspection. At the interim inspection, Ofsted judges that it has sustained effectiveness.

Children have good experiences and lots of fun when they visit this home. Parents reported that their children enjoy coming to stay. The parents' feedback to a recent questionnaire conducted by the manager includes the following comments: 'My son loves his time at the home' and, 'They are always happy to go.'

Children stay in a well-resourced, spacious and clean environment. Bedrooms are individually decorated and personalised to the children's personal preferences. The home is large enough that children attending for day care do not negatively impact on the space provided for those children who stay overnight. The garden and outside soft-play room provide further space and equipment for children to use. A parent said, 'There is so much equipment and toys to keep the children occupied. It is a clean place and

everyone is happy.'

Staff provide a good level of care and opportunities to the children. They are attentive to children's needs and understand their individual ways of communicating. Staff involve children in play and cooking activities, and entertain them with music and singing. Children take part in trips out to the local shops and parks. Children benefit from the opportunities to join in with these activities.

Children's behaviour is responded to safely and sensitively. Staff primarily use pre-identified motivators to distract children away from anxious and harmful behaviour. Restraints and sanctions are used infrequently, and only as a last resort to keep the children safe or to help them.

The manager responds effectively to complaints and concerns about staff's practice. Complaints are investigated thoroughly and child protection concerns are shared with the appropriate agencies, as required.

The manager has reduced the frequency of medication administration errors effectively. Last year, staff were provided with medication awareness workshops, and reviews were undertaken to assess their competency to administer medication. Since these measures were introduced there has been an 83% reduction in the number of medication errors.

Staff work hard to ensure that children's stays are positive experiences. The manager carefully arranges the children's visits to ensure that children's needs are compatible and that the necessary staff are available to look after them.

Permanent staffing levels are good. This ensures that children are supported by staff who they are familiar with. Parents confirm that there are always familiar staff on shift.

Staff feel well supported and they are provided with regular professional guidance to help them in their role. They report that they have good opportunities for training, which includes specific courses to meet the complex health needs of some of the children.

The manager has addressed the requirement made at the last inspection. As such, the location of the home is now risk assessed to include consideration of its proximity to other services for vulnerable children in the area.

A parent told the inspector, 'The home is wonderful and has been very helpful to me and my family.' There are no requirements or recommendations made at this inspection.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
17/05/2017	Full	Good
13/02/2017	Interim	Improved effectiveness

13/10/2016

Full

Requires improvement

21/03/2016

Interim

Sustained effectiveness

Information about this inspection

Inspectors have looked closely at the experiences and progress of children and young people. Inspectors considered the quality of work and the differences made to the lives of children and young people. They watched how professional staff work with children and young people and each other and discussed the effectiveness of help and care provided. Wherever possible, they talked to children and young people and their families. In addition, the inspectors have tried to understand what the children's home knows about how well it is performing, how well it is doing and what difference it is making for the children and young people whom it is trying to help, protect and look after.

This inspection focused on the effectiveness of the home and the progress and experiences of children and young people since the most recent full inspection.

Using the 'Social care common inspection framework', this inspection was carried out under the Care Standards Act 2000 to assess the effectiveness of the service, how it meets the core functions of the service as set out in legislation, and to consider how well it complies with the Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015 and the 'Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards'.

Children's home details

Unique reference number: SC004085

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Diverse Abilities Plus Ltd.

Registered provider address: Barnabas Project Centre, 13-15 Manor Avenue, Poole, Dorset BH12 4LB

Responsible individual: Jonathan Seaward

Registered manager: Amiee Barnett

Inspector

Guy Mammatt, social care inspector

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