

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC013828
Inspector	Liz Driver
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Registered manager	POST VACANT / Sophie Louise Catherine Taylor
Date of last inspection	07/07/2014

Inspection date	17/01/2015
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Previous inspection	good
Enforcement action since last inspection	none

This inspection

This home was judged good at the last full inspection. At this interim inspection Ofsted judge that it has **sustained effectiveness**.

At the last inspection carried out in August 2014 one requirement and two recommendations were made. The requirement related to making the bathroom flooring and extractor piping, in the kitchen, safe. The provider has responded by casing in the extractor piping and making the bathroom flooring safe. The provider has also considered the two recommendations made; some staff have received training on e-safety and child sexual exploitation, with other staff booked to receive training in the near future, and individual emergency fire evacuation plans are now dated to show when they were last reviewed.

Children and young people enjoy their respite and short break experience at the service. They make good progress in areas such as participating in activities, both on site and in the local community, spending time with their peers and gaining independent life skills. The service meets the needs of children and young people in regards to what they wish to do whilst staying there. Children say they wish to have fun, meet new friends, attend different activities and have time to themselves and time to socialise. The service also meets the needs of parents as it provides time for them to be with the rest of their family, attend family functions, and have a rest and time to socialise.

The service has a manager who is currently going through the process to register with Ofsted. She has already had a positive impact at the setting by introducing improved recording to evidence the outcomes children and young people achieve. She has improved the links between the service and local schools and has children's individual learning plans so staff can work alongside targets set at school. A new system called `working towards our outcomes` provides children, young people and staff with clear information of targets set. For example, using a spoon at meal times, to eat more independently and engage more with peers. Achievement awards show individual progress. A new `apple achievement tree` also provides the opportunity

for staff to celebrate the many successes children and young people achieve.

Monitoring of the service is good with regular independent visits and reports undertaken. Together with the three monthly quality reviews, undertaken by the manager, they provide direction for the development of the service. The manager has a development plan for 2015 which includes the upgrading of the bathrooms and sensory room.

The number of incidents is extremely low. There have been no complaints, no missing children incidents or safeguarding concerns. The one physical intervention carried out was a rare occurrence. It was managed well, through good follow up in reviewing and updating behaviour support plans.

Sound safeguarding procedures and staff training ensure they can respond to concerns and allegations. The service continues to develop its e-safety policy and training alongside child sexual exploitation training.

Staff work well with other agencies to meet the requirements of individual care plans. They communicate well with parents and families. Staff attend reviews and any meeting relevant to the respite or short stay needs of the children and their families.

Transition planning is good. Children and young people are offered a smooth introduction to the service from initial visits with their families through to tea time visits, unaccompanied stays, finally leading to overnight stays. Staff know the children and young people well and each child has an 'all about me' folder that contains all necessary information, including emergency protocols.

No requirements or recommendations have been made at this inspection. The two areas that require improvement are already being addressed; the upgrading of the two bathrooms and the sensory room.

Information about this children's home

This children's home is registered to provide respite and short-term care for up to six children and young people primarily with physical disabilities and/or learning disabilities. The home is located on a multi-purpose site and operated by a large charitable organisation managed by a Board of Trustees.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
07/07/2014	Full	good
24/03/2014	Interim	good progress
15/10/2013	Full	adequate
07/01/2013	Interim	good progress

What inspection judgements mean

At the interim inspections we make a judgement on whether the home has improved in effectiveness, sustained effectiveness, or declined in effectiveness since the previous full inspection. This is in line with the *Inspection of children's homes: framework for inspection*.

Information 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 to assess the effectiveness of the service and to consider how well it complies with the relevant regulations and meets the national minimum standards.

The report details the main strengths, any areas for improvement, including any breaches of regulation, and any failure to meet national minimum standards. The judgements included in the report are made against the framework of inspection for children's homes.