

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC019441
Inspection date	27 January 2010
Inspector	Muhammed Harunur Rashid
Type of Inspection	Random

Date of last inspection	20 August 2009
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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 outcome for children set out in the Children Act 2004 and relevant National Minimum Standards for the establishment.

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 children's home is run by a registered charity. This is a large one-storey building specially designed for use as a children's home and day care centre. It offers up to five respite care places for children with learning disabilities who may also have physical disabilities, plus day care for up to five children of both genders, with severe learning disability who may have an associated physical disability. The service is offered on a planned basis over a yearly cycle for up to 65 children who are accommodated between one and 21 days at a time.

Summary

This was an unannounced interim inspection which looked at the outcome areas of staying safe and organisation. It also looked at the progress the service has achieved with the previous recommendations made at the last inspection dated 20 August 2009. Being healthy, enjoying and achieving, positive contribution and economic wellbeing were not assessed in this inspection.

Children and young people live in a safe environment. Their confidentiality is promoted. Staff receive various training for their professional development. The Registered Manager reviews staffing levels in accordance with the needs of children and young people.

The overall quality rating is good.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

At the previous inspection the Registered Manager was asked to ensure that a minimum ratio of 80% of all care staff complete their National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) at level 3 training and staff obtain competency certificates for safe administration of gastrostomy feeding to children from a health professional. The service has met one recommendation and continues working towards ensuring that a minimum ratio of 80% of all care staff complete their NVQ at level 3 training.

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 and confidentiality is promoted by the policy in place, the practice of staff and through the secure storage of children and young people's records.

An appropriate complaint policy and procedure is in place and the procedure is made accessible by being displayed in the premises. The home has also developed a complaint procedure in a pictorial format for children and young people who are non-verbal. Staff maintain a complaint and concern log book. The home has not received any formal complaints recently.

The home has clear systems in place that safeguards the children and young people from abuse. Training is available for staff on safeguarding children and young people, and the home continues to seek safeguarding training that relates to children with disabilities.

Children and young people are safeguarded through staff's knowledge and understanding of safeguarding and anti-bullying issues and through robust procedures in place which are followed by staff.

It is unlikely that a child or a young person will go missing from care due to the high levels of supervision in place. However, the home has an appropriate policy in place for dealing with unauthorised absence from care.

Staff are provided with guidance and training to improve children and young people's behaviour. Children and young people's socially acceptable behaviour is appropriately rewarded. There are agreed measures by which to deal with unacceptable behaviour, such as the use of appropriate forms of sanctions. Staff have a good knowledge of safeguarding issues and training in the use of restraint is provided.

Staff have attended health and safety training. A risk assessment of the premises is in place. The home has a designated fire safety officer. Staff carry out regular fire alarm testing and fire drills. Current gas and electric test certificates are available for inspection. A valid employer's liability insurance certificate is displayed in the premises.

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 good.

Staffing levels are kept under review to ensure that the appropriate levels are maintained. The Registered Manager reviews staffing levels in accordance with the needs of children and young people. Children and young people are well looked after by staff members who are committed to their work. Children and young people live in a safe and caring environment.

The deputy manager informed the inspector that the service is in the process of recruiting two care staff. The home employs a number of bank staff. All staff receive regular supervision and annual appraisals from their line manager. Regular staff meetings take place which promote good communication amongst the staff team.

The home is working towards ensuring that a minimum ratio of 80% care staff complete their NVQ at level 3 in looking after children and young people. Two members of staff are currently undertaking NVQ at level 3 training and anticipating to complete this by April 2010.

Staff spoken to were satisfied with the training they are receiving. Staff have recently attended medication administration training. All staff now obtained competency certificates for safe administration of gastrostomy feeding to children from a health professional.

What must be done to secure future improvement?

Statutory requirements

This section sets out the actions, which must be taken so that the registered person meets the Care Standards Act 2000, The Childrens Homes Regulations 2001 and the National Minimum Standards. The Registered Provider must comply with the given timescales.

Standard	Action	Due date
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Recommendations

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

- ensure that a minimum ratio of 80% of all care staff complete their NVQ at level 3 training in looking after children and young people. (NMS 29)