

Inspection report for Children's Home

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Inspection date	25/10/2010
Inspector	David Kidner
Type of inspection	Random

Date of last inspection	30/06/2010
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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 registered to provide a home and a short break service for up to nine children of both sexes between the ages of 8 to 18 years who have a learning disability. Some children have complex support needs and require support in everyday life and activities. At the time of the inspection one child was living at the home on a permanent basis.

This home is a detached period property set within with extensive grounds in a village setting. To the ground floor there are a number of communal areas that offer living space, dining facilities, recreational and leisure opportunities. There are adapted bathing, showering and toilet facilities to meet the needs of children and young people who use wheelchairs and have some mobility needs. There are nine single bedrooms situated on the first floor and some of the bedrooms have overhead tracking fitted to meet the specific needs of some children. There is a second fully adapted bathroom and toilet facilities to this floor. The first floor is accessed by a lift and there are mobile hoist and adapted equipment to meet specific needs.

The home has a large garden area offering ample play areas and a covered play area. There is transport provided to take children and young people on social and leisure activities.

The inspector met four children and young people.

Summary

The overall quality rating is good.

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

This was an unannounced interim inspection. The main purpose of this inspection was to ascertain the progress that the home has made in meeting the action and recommendations that were made at the last inspection, and to assess the outcome group staying safe.

The home continues to provide a safe and homely environment. There are robust policies and procedures to safeguard children and ensures that health and safety is promoted. At the time of the inspection the inspector met with some parents who stated that they are very happy with the care that is provided at the home.

As a result of this inspection one action and two recommendations were made.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection a recommendation was made to ensure that the home records all the meals that are served in order to demonstrate a suitable and varied diet. This recommendation has been met. Another recommendation made was to ensure that support is provided for any child who uses alternative methods of communication, to enable them to communicate their needs and wishes effectively. The home is currently devising menus in a more accessible format to address this. This recommendation has been met.

A further recommendation was made to ensure that the home's staffing is sufficient in practice to meet the needs of the children accommodated, in particular for opportunities to access leisure and social activities out of the home environment. This recommendation has been met.

The action that was made at the last inspection relating to staff supervision and appraisal has not been met and remains an action.

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.

The home continues to promote children's privacy and confidentiality and the care staff ensure that privacy and dignity is maintained when supporting children with intimate care needs. Bathing, showering and toilet facilities are adapted to meet the needs of the children. The ground floor bathroom has recently been refurbished and redecorated. A number of overhead electronic hoists and mobile hoists are available to aid dignified and safe moving and handling.

The service has a detailed complaints procedure. There has been two recorded complaints since the last inspection. However, it was noted that the outcome of all the investigations are not always detailed in the home's complaints log to demonstrate a satisfactory outcome.

The welfare of children is promoted and there are robust systems to safeguard children. There have not been any matters relating to child protection. The services ensures that all staff receive safeguarding training and that refresher training is provided.

The service has policies and procedures in relation to bullying. The Registered Manager stated that at present bullying is not an issue at the home. The home has policies and protocols to safeguard children who may be absent without authority.

However, this has never been an issue for this short break service. The home notifies the appropriate authorities of any significant events in the home.

Children are assisted to develop socially acceptable behaviour when staying at the service and each child's care and support plan contains guidelines and protocols to support staff in the management of behaviours. These are regularly reviewed, and the home ensures that parents and other professionals are involved in reviews. There are robust policies and procedures in relation to sanctions, behaviour management and the use of physical intervention. Sanctions are not imposed by the home. The service ensures that detailed records are maintained in the use of physical intervention and these are audited by the Registered Manager and the Regulation 33 visitor. Staff receive training in de-escalation and restraint.

The home is proactive in promoting health and safety and fire safety. The fire service visited the home in April 2010 and no recommendations made. However, the home's fire risk assessment is dated 2008 and the Registered Manager stated that this has been recently updated, but a copy of the assessment was not available in the home. The fire fighting equipment have not had an annual service. This was an oversight and the home has been waiting for a date for this to be undertaken by a contractor. The home took action at the time of the inspection and a date has been arranged for this to take place in the very near future.

The service has a robust staff recruitment and selection procedure. The Registered Manager stated that there has not been any newly appointed staff since the last inspection.

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?

Statutory Requirements

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

Std.	Action	Due date
28	ensure that all staff employed at the home receive regular formal supervision and an annual appraisal. (Regulation 27 (4) (a)).	31/03/2011

Recommendations

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

- ensure that the home's record of complaints details the action taken and the outcome of the investigation (NMS16)
- ensure that an updated copy of the home's fire risk assessment is available and that the fire fighting equipment is serviced as arranged. (NMS26)