

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	26 October 2009
Inspector	David Kidner
Type of Inspection	Random

Date of last inspection	2 July 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 home is registered to provide a home and a short break service for up to nine children of both sexes between the ages of eight years and 18 years of age 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 two children live permanently at the home.

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.

Summary

The main purpose of this unannounced interim inspection was to ascertain the progress that the home has made in meeting the actions and recommendations that were made at the last full inspection. The outcome area of staying safe and some of the national minimum standards under organisation were also inspected.

At the time of the inspection, the inspector met and spoke with some children and young people. Children commented that they like coming to the home, that they like the staff and the food. They also commented that they like the activities and go out on trips. Staff were observed to interact with children and young people in a very caring and professional manner. Children appeared happy to be staying at the home. As a result of this inspection one action and two recommendations were made.

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 last inspection an action was made to ensure that the home's complaints log records the outcomes of investigations that are undertaken following a complaint. Documentation viewed confirmed that this now takes place and therefore the action has been met. An action was also made in relation to staff supervision and appraisals. There has been some improvement in staff receiving regular supervisions but not all staff are receiving these and annual appraisals have not been undertaken. This will remain an action as the action has not been fully met. The home have nominated staff to attend training in child protection, first aid and de-escalation and restraint but places are limited. The action has been met.

Recommendations made at the last inspection included that the electrical works that was identified following a recent inspection were addressed and that portable appliance testing was completed. These matters have been met. A recommendation was made that all staff receive

training in alternative methods of communication. A date has been set for this training and the recommendation has been met. A recommendation was made in relation to a dining room carpet being replaced. The carpet has been ordered and is to be fitted following the half-term break. This recommendation has been met.

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's privacy and confidentiality is promoted. Most children and young people require support with intimate care needs and staff were observed to be promoting privacy when conducting children's personal care. The home has a variety of overhead electronic hoists and mobile hoists to aid moving and handling.

The service has a detailed complaints procedure. There has not been any recorded complaints since the last inspection.

The welfare of children is promoted and the service has robust systems to safeguard children. There has not been any matters relating to child protection. Staff receive training in child protection at induction and refresher training is provided to staff as and when needed. Bullying and absence without authority are not concerns at the home.

There are policies and procedures in relation to sanctions, behaviour management and the use of physical intervention. Sanctions are not imposed and physical intervention is very rarely used. The home develops individual behaviour management to assist staff in managing particular behaviours. Staff receive training in de-escalation and restraint.

The home is proactive in promoting health and safety and fire safety. The fire alarm system and fire fighting equipment have been serviced regularly. However, documentation to confirm that the emergency lighting system has been serviced could not be located. Staff receive regular fire training and fire drills. Documentation viewed confirmed that all overhead tracking in bedrooms and bathing facilities, electronic baths and the mobile hoist have been regularly serviced. However, the home has experienced difficulties in ensuring that the electronic beds and changing benches are regularly serviced.

The service has a robust staff recruitment and selection procedure. There has not been any newly recruited staff since the last inspection. Staff do not commence employment at the home until a satisfactory enhanced criminal records bureau check has been obtained.

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.

The service has systems in place to monitor the performance of the home. Regular visits are conducted in line with regulation 33 of the Children's Homes Regulations 2001 and the Registered Manager ensures that the care given to the children is continually monitored and adapted as needed.

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 Children's Homes Regulations 2001 and the National Minimum Standards. The Registered Provider must comply with the given timescales.

Standard	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 March 2010

Recommendations

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

- ensure that the electronic beds and changing benches are regularly serviced (NMS26)
- ensure that the emergency lighting is regularly serviced (NMS26).