

Inspection report for Children's Home

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Inspector	Liz Driver / Keith Riley
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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 setting is registered to provide short break care for up to seven children and young people with learning disabilities, some of whom may also have a physical disabilities and complex health needs. The conditions of registration also allow the number accommodated to be increased to eight if a child or young person is staying for an interim period whilst a permanent placement is sourced.

The setting is spread over three floors with bedrooms, communal areas, a kitchen, play rooms and a spa room. It also has a large enclosed garden to the rear. Some of the rooms have electric beds and ceiling tracking for hoisting is available in each bedroom, as well as in the bathroom and living areas.

The setting is run by a local authority and all the children and young people who receive respite care at the unit live within the county. The inspection took place during half term and four children or young people were present in the home engaging in a variety of activities.

Summary

The overall quality rating is outstanding.

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

This was an unannounced interim inspection that looked at staying safe. Being healthy, enjoying and achieving, positive contribution, economic well-being and organisation were not looked at during this inspection. There were no previous actions or recommendations.

Children and young people benefit from an outstanding service provided by a stable, committed staff team. Robust procedures and experienced staff provide maximum protection for the children and young people. They experience an environment that is exceptionally clean and comfortable. Children and young people are protected by recruitment procedures that ensures all staff are safe to work with children and young people. Comprehensive risk assessments enable children and young people to participate in a range of activities and to be kept safe. There are robust health and safety measures in place. Children and young people appear happy at the setting.

Improvements since the last inspection

There were no actions or recommendations made at the last inspection.

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is not judged.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

Staff respect the children and young people's privacy and ensure confidential information about them is securely kept. Comprehensive risk assessments about support with personal care are regularly reviewed. Children and young people in need of support with personal care are treated with dignity and respect. When there is a mixed staff group on duty staff are aware of clear guidance in relation to gender issues.

There have been no complaints received by the unit or Ofsted since the last inspection. The children's guide contains details in pictorial form of how to complain. Staff use their knowledge of the children and young people address any concerns. The children and young people have regular contact with an advocate to ensure their opinions are known and valued to a high standard. Parents said they know how to complain and the manager was always accessible.

A robust approach towards child protection ensures that children and young people have their safety and well-being promoted to an excellent standard. Staff display an excellent understanding of child protection issues and what to do if they are concerned about a child or young person's welfare. Staff demonstrate their knowledge of child protection issues including their responsibilities for any child or young person on a child protection plan. Manual handling plans in conjunction with risk assessments ensure children and young people are safe in their day-to-day life such as getting in and out of bed or crossing a road. Parents say they feel their children are safe at the home.

Bullying is not identified as a problem at the home. The cognitive disabilities of the children and young people means they do not necessarily understand the concept of bullying. Staff are acutely aware of how each child or young person communicates and act appropriately to minimise any issues that may cause distress or disruption to others. No incidents of bullying have been reported since the last inspection.

There is a policy and procedure in place for children and young people who are absent without authority. Close supervision and thorough risk assessments continue to protect children and young people. There is an emergency protocol in place if a child or young person is missing. There have been no incidences of unauthorised absence since the last inspection.

Staff are caring, committed and skilled in meeting the needs of a diverse range of children and young people. They develop positive relationships with the staff and any

challenging behaviours are managed extremely effectively. Comprehensive behaviour management plans and risk assessments guide staff how to support each child or young person as an individual and provide for a consistent approach. The number of incidents is very low and there is minimal physical intervention. Records examined showed that behaviours are recorded and care plans subsequently reviewed by the management and other professionals. Staff are extremely vigilant in following these to promote socially acceptable behaviour.

There are robust systems in place to provide for a safe and secure environment. Comprehensive records are kept to ensure each staff member, child and young person takes part in fire drills on a regular basis. Children and young people are monitored individually as to their response in a trial evacuation. Overall staff are aware of what action to take although some records of these decisions are less detailed. Children and young people have fire safety awareness training and have a fire evacuation plan in pictorial format. All necessary checks are up to date and the home has suitable insurance. Qualified staff are responsible for health and safety which is to an excellent standard.

There is a robust recruitment procedure in place with all necessary safeguards in place. Visitors are vetted before entering.

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?

Recommendations

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

- consider having individual fire risk assessments for young people. (NMS 26.2)