

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC032069
Inspector	Catherine Honey
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Registered person	Praxis Care
Registered person address	Praxis 25-31 Lisburn Road Belfast County Antrim BT9 7AA
Responsible individual	Irene Elizabeth Sloan
Registered manager	Ruth Nicola Harrison
Date of last inspection	09/07/2014

Inspection date	26/02/2015
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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**.

The home continues to provide a nurturing and stimulating environment for young people to visit and stay in. They are safe in the home and are further protected by the staff team's thorough knowledge of their needs. Staff know the young people well and take care to promote their well-being and safety. Staff demonstrate resilience in working creatively with complex and challenging behaviours. The young people benefit from high levels of care provided by a dedicated staff team. They respond positively to the patient and nurturing approach of staff which helps ensure their short breaks are stimulating and fun.

The Registered manager routinely undertakes detailed monitoring of the service and submits an overview report to Ofsted in line with regulation. In addition, detailed monthly reports from the home's independent visitor support the quality assurance processes. Monitoring reports and consultation with parents has identified that the garden area of the home requires attention to provide a larger, safer space for young people to use. Substantial landscaping and redesign of the garden area has started to ensure young people have access to a well-resourced space, which fully meets their needs.

At the previous inspection, one requirement and three recommendations were made which have all been addressed. The requirement was made about ensuring written records were made of any safeguarding concerns. The manager has implemented a new safeguarding recording system. This ensures there are clear records and a chronology in place to record any concerns. This helps ensure there is a robust audit trail in relation to the protection of children.

The three recommendations were made about fire safety; ensuring a policy is in place in relation to electronic monitoring devices; and making sure there is a clear record of visitors leaving the building. Fire doors in the home are no longer propped

open which helps ensure the home is protected from the spread of fire in the event of an emergency. A written policy is in place regarding the use of night-time electronic listening monitors: in addition, permission is sought from parents/carers and the placing authority. This helps ensuring young people's privacy is protected. The visitor's book now shows when all visitors have signed out. This increased monitoring provides a clear log which aids the safeguarding of young people.

New young people have started receiving short breaks at the home since the last inspection. Planning for admission to the home involves young people, their parents or carers, and the placing authority. This helps ensure that the needs of all young people are fully considered before new placements are agreed. In the main, care planning is detailed and individualised to the often very complex needs of young people resulting in young people having their needs fully understood and met from the time they are admitted to the home. However, in relation to one young person, staff were not able to demonstrate that important documentation, such as risk assessments, had been shared with a parent or permissions sought, meaning the parent may not be clear on the type of service their child is receiving.

Young people with complex health needs are supported by a trained staff team. In addition, staff are supported by a visiting nursing service. Staff receive regular medication training and are assessed as competent before they are allowed to administer medication. In the main, staff are meticulous in their approach to the safe administration of medication. However, on one occasion, a dosage error meant a young person did not receive the correct amount of prescribed medication. This error was identified by the home and appropriate action immediately taken to minimise impact on the young person. This shortfall has impacted on otherwise safe and robust medication administration processes.

Information about this children's home

The provider organisation is a registered charity. This home provides respite care for young people with learning and physical difficulties, and often complex health care needs, accommodating a maximum of eight at any one time.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
09/07/2014	Full	good
27/01/2014	Interim	satisfactory progress
09/05/2013	Full	adequate
07/01/2013	Interim	inadequate progress

What does the children's home need to do to improve further?

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 person(s) must comply with the given timescales.

Reg.	Requirement	Due date
21 (2001)	ensure that any medicine which is prescribed for a child is administered as prescribed, to the child for whom it is prescribed. (Regulation 21 (b))	31/03/2015

Recommendations

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

- ensure children and parents understand the nature of records maintained about them and how to access them. (NMS 22.2)

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.