

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspector	Wilfried Maxfield
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Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	20/11/2013
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Service information

Brief description of the service

The children's home is owned and run by a local authority and provides short breaks for children and young people with learning, sensory and physical disabilities. There are five beds available in the home to provide overnight and holiday stays.

The inspection judgements and what they mean

Good progress	The children's home has demonstrated continued improvement in quality of care and outcomes for children and young people and where appropriate has addressed all requirements and the large majority of recommendations that were raised at the previous inspection.
Satisfactory progress	The children's home has maintained quality of care and outcomes for children and young people and where appropriate has addressed all requirements and the majority of recommendations that were raised at the previous inspection.
Inadequate progress	The children's home has failed to address one or more requirements and/or has not met the majority of recommendations and/or the quality of care and outcomes for children and young people have declined since the last full inspection.

Progress

Since their previous inspection the service is judged to be making **good progress**.

The short breaks centre was last inspected in November 2013 when overall effectiveness was judged to be outstanding. No requirements or recommendations were made. This inspection found that the centre continues to deliver an excellent quality of care and excellent outcomes for children and young people and is making good progress. The management of the centre is able to demonstrate a strong commitment to maintaining and improving the very high standards of care. Children and young people continue to be provided with a nurturing and safe environment. One recommendation has been made.

Children and young people benefit from a stable and committed staff team that is able to provide outstanding continuity of care. The vast majority of staff have worked together for many years. All are highly qualified and benefit from a continuous programme of professional development. Excellent support and supervision and effective team meetings are at the centre of a very positive and motivational management style. A well implemented recruitment campaign is underway to ensure that the open positions caused by recent resignations are replaced.

Staff can demonstrate their expert knowledge of the children's needs and underlying conditions. The delivery of care and the outcomes for children and young people with very complex health and psychological needs remains excellent. Excellent placement planning, case studies and reviews ensure that staff know the children and young people in their care extremely well. Their skills in communicating and engaging with the children provides for positive relationships. Children's behaviour is managed very professionally and effectively. Excellent staff training and refreshers provides staff with frequent opportunities to update their practice. Continuous professional reflection and debate ensures that strategies to prevent and de-escalate challenging behaviour are always individually tailored and supportive to the child in question.

Children and young people are safe at the home. The staff team is very vigilant and competent to implement effective and safe care practices. Welfare concerns are reported promptly. Comprehensive risk assessments make staff aware of any possible circumstance that may trigger a safeguarding concern. The risk of young people going missing is minimised by good risk awareness and high levels of staff supervision. Staff are aware of the possible circumstances that may trigger children and young people going missing.

The short breaks centre is well furnished and in good decorative order. It provides children and young people with good facilities and is clean, tidy and comfortable. There is a good range of specialist adaptations and facilities to meet the diverse needs of the children. A good choice of resources encourages and supports play and child centred activity. A continued programme of redecoration and refurbishment ensures that the premises are maintained to a good standard and that children can enjoy a safe and homely environment. A new specialist shower that has recently been installed and now provides children with physical disabilities with better access and ease of use.

The premises are thoroughly risk assessed to identify any avoidable hazards. There are regular checks of the fire alarm, smoke detectors and emergency lighting. Professionals carry out checks on gas and electric appliances. Staff and children and young people participate in fire drills and have practiced what to do in an emergency. However, personal emergency evacuation plans are not in place for all of the children.

Staff and managers of the short break centre continue to demonstrate a strong commitment to develop and to improve the service provision. This inspection notes that good progress has been made overall to further enhance the quality of care and the outcomes for children and young people and their families.

Areas for improvement

Recommendations

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

- ensure that there is an emergency escape plan that all staff and children are familiar with and have practiced so they know what to do in an emergency. Here in particular: Ensure that all children have a personal emergency evacuation plan. (NMS 10.9)

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 progress made by the provider since the last full inspection, identifies any further strengths, any areas for improvement and makes judgements as outlined in the *Inspection of children's homes – framework for inspection*.