

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC035155
Inspector	Stella Henderson
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Registered person	Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council
Registered person address	Northgate House Northgate Halifax West Yorkshire HX1 1UN
Responsible individual	Gary Pickles
Registered manager	Jane Elizabeth Monica Stanley
Date of last inspection	15/10/2014

Inspection date	06/02/2015
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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 **improved effectiveness**.

The home continues to build on the excellent quality of care offered to children and young people and there are several areas of improved effectiveness.

There is much clearer tracking of children and young people's progress during their short breaks at the home. This is demonstrated through their individual 'achievement' files. Children and young people have a big say in setting their own objectives, along with parents and professionals. These relate to a range of outcomes, such as trying new experiences and extending individual skills and abilities. Some objectives build on existing strengths. One young person has a keen interest in health and safety and is working towards providing training for the staff team, alongside a qualified trainer. Praise and certificates are provided in recognition of achievements: in this case a certificate from the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents. Another young person had objective set to identify different coins, to help with developing independence skills.

An innovation since the last inspection is the introduction of a book club. This is time set aside, each week, where children and young people can listen to a story, or read on their own, or with a member of staff. This has many benefits such as developing nurturing relationships with staff and promoting concentration.

Reflective practice has improved. There is better consultation with children and young people, giving them the opportunity to comment on 'how do you think that's gone?'. An additional question is posed for staff, 'what did we learn from this?' These prompts gives children and young people the chance to express their views, and preferences, and help staff to better evaluate the impact of their work.

Staff continue to provide exceptional support for children and young people, offering them learning opportunities that are fun and stimulating. There is particularly close

working with local specialist schools to ensure that common objectives can be worked towards. Strong links with families are further extended with the provision of space for an additional support group for the parents of babies who have complex needs.

High levels of staffing continue to ensure children and young people are safe during their short breaks at the home. There are no 'missing from home' incidents and when out and about the children and young people are closely supervised.

The Registered Manager, ably supported by a deputy manager and senior staff, closely monitors the experiences of children and young people. There is a clear determination, creativity and enthusiasm to continue to improve the quality of care for children and people and provide a flexible service for families.

Recommendations made at the last inspection, to improve practice in relation to surveillance mechanisms and amend information in the children's guide have been fully addressed. The home's location assessment is work in progress but needs further attention to comply with current guidance. A recommendation is set to assist the provider to address this matter.

Information about this children's home

The children's home is owned and operated by a local authority. It is registered to offer a short breaks service to children and young people. Young people using the service have learning disabilities and many also have physical disabilities.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
15/10/2014	Full	good
13/02/2014	Interim	good progress
21/06/2013	Full	good
31/10/2012	Interim	inadequate progress

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

Recommendations

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

- ensure the home's location promotes children's health, safety and well-being and avoids factors that present significant risks to children. This is with specific reference to the area location risk assessment. (NMS 10.2)

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.