

Inspection report for Children's Home

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Inspection date	10/03/2011
Inspector	Deborah White
Type of inspection	Random

Date of last inspection	14/10/2010
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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

This children's home provides short-break care and accommodation for children with a disability and sensory impairments from 9 years old up to 17 years old.

The home is a large two-storey dwelling set in its own grounds. There is a lounge with a television and DVD player, a dining room, an activities room, a large soft play area, a sensory room and a large enclosed garden with outdoor play equipment. The home has its own minibus equipped to transport children who use a wheelchair.

There was one child present during the visit.

Summary

The overall quality rating is good.

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

The purpose of this unannounced interim inspection was to look at the action and recommendations from the last inspection and all the key national minimum standards in outcomes for staying safe.

Outcomes for being healthy; enjoying and achieving; positive contribution; economic well being and organisation will be looked at during the next full inspection.

The home is good overall at keeping children safe. Nearly all the key national minimum standards, in outcomes for staying safe, are met to provide a secure place for children to stay. Regular safeguarding training helps the staff team to keep updated in their practice, and safeguarding records are kept to allow for regular monitoring.

The home needs to do better at meeting actions and recommendations from previous inspections to improve the performance of the home. There is some required information missing from a procedure and staff have not been trained in how to counter bullying.

There is one action and one recommendation arising from this visit, which were raised at the last inspection.

Improvements since the last inspection

An action raised at the last inspection to make sure the home's complaints procedure includes the contact details for Ofsted is not met. The procedure does not include the details, nor does the literature provided to parents about how to complain.

Four recommendations from the last inspection are met. The children's guide now has the contact details for Ofsted; all children have parental consent for staff to carry out first aid and the home now has written training records for all staff.

A recommendation that is not met is to provide countering bullying training for staff.

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 is respected. Staff are good at promoting privacy and dignity when delivering personal care so that children feel comfortable and relaxed while having their needs attended to. Robust procedures support children's rights to privacy and respect. All bedrooms are single accommodation and can be secured if a child wishes to have some private time. All bathrooms and toilets have suitable locks fitted.

Children's welfare is safeguarded. Positive relationships with families ensure they are involved in individual safeguarding placement plans, particularly where children are unable to communicate. There is no bullying and there have been no instances where a child has run away. Staff receive regular child protection training and know what to do if they suspect a child is at risk of being abused. There have been no complaints since the last inspection.

Children's behaviour is managed positively. Relationships are positive, and a wealth of photographs displayed throughout the home show children and staff participating in lots of fun activities. Staff receive regular training in safe restraint techniques and where sanctions are used, these are recorded adequately.

Children, staff and visitors are protected from the risk of fire. Regular safety checks ensure fire fighting equipment is maintained and regular fire drills ensure staff and children know what to do if the fire alarm is activated. Risk assessments are recorded and reviewed as necessary.

Careful vetting of visitors protects children from potential abusers. All unknown visitors have their identification checked and verified, and all visitors sign the visitor's book so the Registered Manager can monitor who comes into the home and why.

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?

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 Provider(s) must comply with the given timescales.

Std.	Action	Due date
16	update the home's complaints procedures to include the name, address and telephone number of Ofsted. (Regulation 24 (4)(a)).	30/04/2011

Recommendations

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

- ensure staff receive training in awareness of, and effective strategies to counter bullying (NMS 18.2).

