

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	20 July 2009
Inspector	Deborah White
Type of Inspection	Random

Date of last inspection	12 March 2009
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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 outcome for children set out in the Children Act 2004 and relevant National Minimum Standards for the establishment.

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 from nine years old up to 17 years old.

The home is a large single-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 were two children present during this inspection.

Summary

The purpose of this unannounced interim inspection was to look at the actions and recommendations from the last inspection and to look at outcomes in staying safe.

Outcomes for being healthy, enjoying and achieving, positive contribution, economic well-being and organisation were not inspected. These will be looked at during the next key visit.

Outcomes for staying safe are satisfactory. There is no bullying in the home and good observation and supervision of children reduces the risk of children going missing. Risk management is good, with detailed risk assessments in place and regular training ensures staff know how to protect children.

How restraints are recorded is unsatisfactory, which means incidents can not be adequately monitored to ensure all restraints are appropriate. Information that children should be given, is not written in a way that is suitable for children with a disability and the children's guide does not fully describe the home's expectations.

There are two actions, one outstanding from the last inspection and four recommendations arising from this visit.

The overall quality rating is satisfactory.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection, the Registered Person was required to improve some areas of health and safety at the home. Records are now organised, to show that children who have accidents are safeguarded and health and safety risk assessments are regularly updated to reduce possible risks to children, staff and visitors.

An action to improve the monitoring of the home is met. Records show that important documentation is regularly checked and where there are issues arising actions are in place. There are now systems in place to consult with children, parents and social workers to give them a voice in the home's operation.

An action and recommendation to produce a children's guide in a format suitable for children with a disability is not met and will be raised again in this report. A recommendation to provide suitable information about how to complain is also not met.

A recommendation that the home have a minimum of 80 per cent of care staff with their National Vocational Qualification at level 3 in caring for children and young people, is met to ensure children are cared for by staff who have the right qualifications.

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is not judged.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's privacy is respected and staff carry out intimate care discreetly. All bathrooms and toilets have suitable locks fitted and children stay in single bedroom accommodation. Staff understand confidentiality issues and know what information can be shared with other professionals.

Staff take complaints seriously and know what to do to ensure complaints are managed within the required timescales. There are procedures in place, to manage complaints but information to inform children is not in a format that is suitable or appropriate for children with a disability.

Good procedures and regular staff training safeguards children's welfare. Staff know how to recognise possible signs of abuse and how to report any concerns. There is no bullying at the home and children who are at risk of going missing are protected by good observation and supervision.

Behaviour is managed positively and good behaviour is rewarded. Staff and children have good, positive relationships and sanctions used are appropriate.

Children are not protected by how the home records physical restraints. The reasons why children are restrained are not recorded in the home's records and how children are held is not fully described, to ensure restraints are fully monitored.

Risk management at the home is good. Health and safety and workplace risk assessments are regularly undertaken and where hazards are identified, measures are in place to reduce identified risks. Regular fire risk assessments, equipment checks, fire drills and staff training protects children, staff and visitors from fire.

Individual risk assessments are detailed and written in a way that makes it clear how to protect children whose health or disability poses a risk. The assessments are reviewed regularly, with written evaluations and they are signed by parents and social workers, to signal involvement and consent.

Where children have complex needs, good risk assessments safeguard their welfare, however not all new and known risks are recorded straight away.

Careful monitoring of visitors protects children from potential abusers. All unknown visitors have their identification checked and sign the home's visitors book.

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 meets the Care Standards Act 2000, The Childrens Homes Regulations 2001 and the National Minimum Standards. The Registered Provider must comply with the given timescales.

Standard	Action	Due date
1	produce a guide to the children's home which shall include a summary of the home's Statement of Purpose and a summary of the complaints procedure (Regulation 4 (3) (a) (b))	30 September 2009
22	ensure that within 24 hours of the use of any measure of restraint a written record is made, in a volume kept for the purpose, which includes the details of the behaviour leading to the restraint and a description of the measure used (Regulation 17 (4) (b) and (c)).	31 August 2009

Recommendations

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

- ensure the complaints procedure is accessible to disabled children in a suitable form (NMS 16.3)
- provide a children's guide that is in a form (or forms) appropriate to the age and understanding of the children in the home (NMS 1.3)
- ensure children are given the opportunity to discuss incidents where restraint is used and are encouraged to write or have their views recorded and sign their names in records kept by the home (NMS 22.14)
- ensure risk assessments estimating the level of risk to health are carried out (NMS 26.2)).