

Inspection report for Children's Home

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Inspector	Nicola McEvinney
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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 service provides care for young people with a learning disability in two units, one providing long-term care for up to four young people with varying degrees of learning disabilities. The second unit provides shared care support for up to four young people with varying degrees of learning disabilities. Both units have lounge and dining facilities, with access to the outdoor areas.

The home is situated in a cul-de-sac position, within a residential area, close to a retail and residential town development. The service enjoys reasonable access to public transport, as well as health and leisure facilities.

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 check on the progress of the requirement and recommendations made at the last inspection and to ensure young people are safe.

There are major plans to have this home extended and refurbished which is to commence in the next few weeks. The young people using this service are to be moved to another home run by the local authority whilst this work is being undertaken.

This is a well established committed staff team with the necessary skills to ensure the young people are well cared for.

There was one minor recommendation made at this inspection relating to having fire drills whilst the waking night staff are on duty.

Improvements since the last inspection

The home has addressed the recommendations made at the last inspection. Health care plans are updated when there are changes to the health needs of a young person. Statements of educational need are kept on each young person's file. Staff attend child care reviews and take contemporaneous notes ensuring decisions made are promptly implemented. There are systems in place to ensure that any issues raised by the Regulation 33 visitor are responded to.

There are plans in place to have a total refurbishment and extension, the issues relating to the heating system in the shared care unit is to be rectified; this will address the requirement made at the last inspection.

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.

Staff have attended training on respect and dignity in residential care and are vigilant in ensuring the privacy and dignity of young people is respected; staff knock on all doors prior to opening. There is an intimate care policy in place and same sex carers' deliver personal care as far as possible. Files are kept securely to ensure confidentiality.

The home maintains good communication with the neighbours who have been kept informed regarding the proposed refurbishment and extension. Children's meetings are facilitated by an advocacy group and a range of materials are used to ascertain young people's views and to ensure that they are happy living at the home. There have been no complaints since the last inspection.

Staff have attended safeguarding training; some of which has been safeguarding for young people with disabilities. There are no safeguarding concerns at this time and staff are vigilant in ensuring inappropriate relationships between the young people are closely monitored. There is good guidance to staff on advising what they must do if they see or hear of any mal-practice by staff members; this ensures that young people are safe.

The young people attending the home do not have a propensity to bully each other. However, any incidents of aggression are well managed to ensure that the young people are protected from harm.

The young people do not leave the home unsupervised.

There have been four incidents of restraint all of which were appropriate; all staff have received control and restraint training. The home works closely with families and other professionals to address behaviours leading to the restraints to ensure a consistent approach is maintained. The children and adolescent mental health service supports the staff team and offers guidance on managing challenging behaviours. Each young person has a personal profile which contains information on triggers to potential behaviours with guidance on how these behaviours are best managed.

Risk assessments are in place for each young person, the premises and activities identifying the risk with strategies in place to minimise the risk. Fire records are in good order; fire drills are held four times a year. However a drill has not been held at night to ensure the waking night staff know what action to take in the event of a fire

occurring at this time. Waking night staff have attended fire training with the staff team. Other health and safety checks are carried out, for example, gas installation and electrical items are checked annually.

The identity of all visitors is checked and the home is vigilant in ensuring agency staff who work at the home have the necessary checks to ensure that only suitable people have access to the young people.

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?

Recommendations

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

- ensure a fire drill is held at night. (NMS 26.8)