

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC036186
Inspector	Rachel Griffiths
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Registered person	Derbyshire County Council
Registered person address	County Hall Matlock Derbyshire DE4 3AG

Responsible individual	Ian Johnson
Registered manager	Lisa Jayne Marsh
Date of last inspection	31/12/2014

Inspection date	12/03/2015
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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**.

Outcomes for the children and young people who have short breaks at this service are excellent. A social worker said: 'It really enhances young people's lives. They have opportunities they would not otherwise have.' A parent commented: 'My child has lots of new experiences which improve her socialisation and interaction with others, it is a fabulous service and I cannot commend it enough.' Young people develop valuable life skills, social skills and they have fun.

Older young people are extremely well prepared for transitions into adult respite services. The planning starts early, in consultation with parents and social workers so that comprehensive plans can be put in place for when young people are ready to move on. A social worker said in respect of a young person: 'The role of the staff has been instrumental in the success of the transition into adult services.' Timelines and social stories used to explain changes and transitions are extremely effective in ensuring that young people are involved with, and understand their transitions. This gives young people the best opportunity to settle when they move on to the next stage of their lives.

Staff continue to provide children and young people with an outstanding quality of care. The managers and staff are very knowledgeable in respect of children and young people's complex individual needs and they maintain excellent relationships with them. A parent said: 'The staff are brilliant. My child now has a second family. Me and the staff work as a team.' Strong and positive working relationships with parents as well as strong and positive relationships with a wide range of professionals ensures that each child or young person enjoys consistency of care. It also helps to ensure that they receive the most appropriate support to meet their complex individual needs. This provides children and young people with the best opportunity to reach their full potential.

Children and young people are safe and happy during their short breaks. This is due to high staffing levels which enable staff to supervise all of the children and young people very well, and thus preventing them from coming to any harm. Robust risk assessments enable young people to safely participate in and enjoy a range of activities commensurate with their age and interests without their safety being compromised. As a result, children and young people's opportunities to enjoy and achieve are enhanced.

Complex and challenging behaviour displayed by some young people is very well managed. Positive behaviour and achievements are celebrated with certificates and rewards. There have been no sanctions and only one physical intervention since the last inspection. This is testament to the skills and experience of staff in supporting and de-escalating challenging behaviour. On the one occasion that physical intervention was necessary the incident was thoroughly recorded and evaluated by the manager. Good management monitoring of behaviour plans ensures that practice in this area remains of a high standard.

The management of this home is very effective. Following the last inspection, swift actions have been taken to improve the quality of the service in response to three requirements and two recommendations made. All have been met and an enthusiastic management team continue to seek ways to improve the quality of care and experiences for children and young people further.

The physical environment of the home has significantly improved. A full decoration programme is almost complete. Consequently, children and young people are able to enjoy a more homely and attractive environment. Children and young people also have improved and increased opportunities for outdoor play as a result of old and rusty play equipment being replaced by high quality new equipment.

The home's Statement of Purpose has been updated. It provides detailed and accurate information for parents about the care, support and services the home offers.

New systems introduced in relation to fire procedures have improved safety in the home. Fire drills are now more frequent and are planned to involve different children and young people on each occasion. Fire evacuation procedures are now an agenda item and discussed at every staff handover meeting. Fire evacuation plans are agreed at each meeting, taking into account the specific needs of the children and young people in the home at any one time. This ensures that staff are always clear about what their specific role will be each day or night in the event of a fire. As a result, young people are better safeguarded.

Improvements have been made in respect of monitoring systems in the home. For example, a system introduced to more efficiently monitor staff training needs has been effective. Managers now have improved oversight in this area to ensure that all staff remain fully up to date in all areas of mandatory and more specialised training.

Internal and external quality assurance systems continue to be effective. They identify strengths and minor shortfalls in the home. Regular consultation with young people, parents, social workers and partner agencies demonstrates how the manager continues to proactively seek ways to make even further improvements to the service.

Information about this children's home

The home is provided by a local authority. It is registered to care for up to eight children and young people with learning and/or physical disabilities, including sensory impairment, under short break arrangements.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
31/12/2014	Full	good
19/03/2014	Interim	good progress
10/09/2013	Full	good
03/12/2012	Interim	satisfactory progress

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.