

SC036186

Registered provider: Derbyshire County Council

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

A local authority operates this children's home under short-break arrangements. It provides care for up to eight children and young people who have learning and/or physical disabilities, including sensory impairment.

Inspection dates: 16 to 17 May 2018

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people, taking into account **good**

How well children and young people are helped and protected **good**

The effectiveness of leaders and managers **good**

The children's home provides effective services that meet the requirements for good.

Date of last inspection: 1 November 2017

Overall judgement at last inspection: requires improvement to be good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
01/11/2017	Full	Requires improvement to be good
20/09/2017	Full	Inadequate
23/02/2017	Interim	Sustained effectiveness
05/10/2016	Full	Outstanding

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

Statutory requirements

This section sets out the actions that the registered person(s) must take to meet the Care Standards Act 2000, Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015 and the 'Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards'. The registered person(s) must comply within the given timescales.

Requirement	Due date
The registered person must ensure that an independent person visits the children's home at least once each month. (Regulation 44(1))	14/06/2018
The registered person must supply HMCI a copy of the quality of care review report within 28 days of the date on which the quality of care review is completed. (Regulation 45(4)(a))	14/06/2018

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

This service has experienced some instability since the last inspection. Senior managers made the decision to suspend the service for a period following the identification of shortcomings in some care practices. Managers took quick and effective action to remedy these shortcomings. The service is now on a clear improvement trajectory.

Young people enjoy their breaks. They have excellent relationships with staff. Staff know each young person exceptionally well. Young people know that they are valued and well cared for during their short breaks.

Staff help young people to use and develop their own methods of communication.

Individual placement plans set realistic achievement targets for young people. For instance, one young person is encouraged to wash his own clothes, and another has learned to unpack and pack their bags.

Relationships between staff and parents are strong. Staff provide very good family support, as well as reassurance and practical advice to parents or carers.

Managers and staff have developed strong and effective working relationships with social workers, healthcare professionals and teachers. The managers and staff are particularly good at sharing information that enables good decisions to be made for the benefit of young people.

How well children and young people are helped and protected: good

In response to a number of medication errors, managers have overhauled the medication system and retrained all staff. The medication system is now effective and the likelihood of further errors has been minimised.

The staff have undergone extensive re-training in safeguarding children and young people. Safeguarding procedures have also been comprehensively reviewed. They now provide staff with the information and guidance that they need to keep young people safe.

Staff understand the particular risks and vulnerabilities of young people who have complex needs and disabilities. Risk assessments reflect these risks accurately.

Staff manage some very challenging behaviour with patience and understanding. Behaviour management plans are effective. They detail the triggers to challenging behaviour and the actions that staff should take. Physical intervention is rare as a result.

The manager monitors staff practice well. When she identified concerns, she acted immediately to put these right.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

An experienced, knowledgeable and qualified registered manager leads this service. She has successfully implemented a service development plan. This included the refurbishment of the home. Young people's bedrooms now better match their needs and preferences.

Staff receive regular individual supervision that focuses on the care of young people. Staff have annual appraisals in which objectives are set. These objectives are reviewed through the year. This practice ensures that staff are well supported and well trained.

The manager has not ensured that regular monthly visits have taken place by an independent visitor. There have been two months when visits did not take place. Additionally, the manager has not ensured that Ofsted received the quality assurance report completed by the manager.

Information about this inspection

Inspectors have looked closely at the experiences and progress of children and young people. Inspectors considered the quality of work and the differences made to the lives of children and young people. They watched how professional staff work with children and young people and each other and discussed the effectiveness of help and care provided. Wherever possible, they talked to children and young people and their families. In addition, the inspectors have tried to understand what the children's home knows about how well it is performing, how well it is doing and what difference it is making for the children and young people whom it is trying to help, protect and look

after.

Using the 'Social care common inspection framework', this inspection was carried out under the Care Standards Act 2000 to assess the effectiveness of the service, how it meets the core functions of the service as set out in legislation, and to consider how well it complies with the Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015 and the 'Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards'.

Children's home details

Unique reference number: SC036186

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider address: County Hall, Matlock, Derbyshire DE4 3AG

Responsible individual: Beverley Milway

Registered manager: Lisa Marsh

Inspector

Phillip Morris, social care inspector

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Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

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Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
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