

SC040491

Registered provider: Cornwall Council

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This registered children's home operates as a short-break service and is run by the local authority. It provides care and accommodation for up to five children who have learning difficulties. In total, there are 13 children who visit this home.

A suitably qualified registered manager is in post.

Inspection dates: 9 to 10 December 2019

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: 12 February 2019

Overall judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
12/02/2019	Full	Good
06/06/2017	Full	Good
26/04/2017	Full	Inadequate
23/02/2017	Interim	Sustained effectiveness

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

Recommendations

- As set out in regulations 31-33, the registered person is responsible for maintaining good employment practice. They must ensure that supervision of staff safeguards children and minimises potential risks to them. In particular, provide formal supervision to staff on a regular basis. ('Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards', page 61, paragraph 13.1)

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

This home provides a warm and welcoming environment for children. Despite its large size it offers a homely feel. Bedrooms provide a home-from-home environment for children.

Promoting the ability of children to make choices and to share their needs, wishes and feelings is core to practice.

Children are supported to enjoy varied experiences, both at the home and in the community. Examples include crafts, cooking, shopping, and trips to local attractions.

Since the previous inspection, very few stays for children have been cancelled. This provides important structure for both children and their families.

Several children have made considerable progress since coming to stay at the home. For example, one child is now able to use the toilet with minimal support from staff.

Staff use creative approaches to help children enjoy their time at the home. For example, they have placed a mat in the corridor for a child who needs the sensory pressure of landing on his knees. This has ensured that the child can jump on to his knees safely.

Children and parents are provided with small files which are updated after each stay. These files include lovely pictures of children's experiences. Parents commented how much they enjoy seeing these.

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

Safeguarding practice is of a good standard. Since the previous inspection, there have been no medication errors, and there has been minimal use of physical interventions. On the two occasions when physical interventions were required their use was appropriate

and well documented.

The requirement made at the last inspection regarding the need to improve fire safety has been met in full.

Support to help children communicate is of a good standard. Staff use creative practices to meet the individual needs of each child. For example, a wide selection of Velcro symbols can be attached by children to a separate to help them make food choices.

The general assistant has made several items to meet the sensory needs of children. Examples include a light switch which is attached to a small board. This has helped one child significantly by taking their focus away from active light switches.

Care planning documents are not always explicit regarding what staff need to do to meet the needs of children and keep them safe.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

Interim arrangements that are in place while the registered manager undertakes a further qualification are working well.

Recruitment practice is of a good standard. Staff are thoroughly vetted within recruitment processes.

Supervision of staff is happening on a regular basis, although the quality of this supervision is not standardised. Some sessions are recorded in brief notes whereas other records are detailed and typed professional documents.

Staff training is monitored and there are no staff out of date in respect of the relevant level 3 qualification.

Internal management investigations are of a good standard. Any concerns regarding staff conduct are well managed and comprehensively explored.

Care planning overall is clear and up to date. There is also clear consideration of children's voices, needs, wishes and feelings within planning.

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: SC040491

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Cornwall Council

Registered provider address: Accounts Payable, PO Box 727, Truro TR1 9GP

Responsible individual: Tony Phillips-Jones

Registered manager: Tamsin Moorhouse

Inspector(s)

Polly Soper, social care inspector

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