

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC042978
Inspector	Mary Timms
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Registered person	Lincolnshire County Council
Registered person address	Lincolnshire County Council, County Offices Newland LINCOLN LN1 1YL
Responsible individual	Janice Spencer
Registered manager	Margaret Sarah Nowland
Date of last inspection	24/11/2014

Inspection date	17/03/2015
Previous inspection	outstanding
Enforcement action since last inspection	none

This inspection

This home was judged outstanding at the last full inspection. At this interim inspection Ofsted judge that it has **improved effectiveness**.

This well-managed service continues to provide an overall outstanding quality of care to young people on short-breaks from home. It is evident that the staff team work hard to ensure that young people enjoy their visits, while meeting their physical and emotional needs to a high standard. It is also apparent that staff are genuinely fond of the young people and explore every avenue to promote progress and improve outcomes for each young person. Staff show a great passion for their role and have an excellent understanding of the vulnerabilities and needs of each young person. The service is held in high regard by both parents and involved professionals. Comments from parents include, 'The service is amazing! I am extremely happy with the care provided'. Also, 'Xx loves to go there. He is so happy and excited when he realises he is going'.

Robust quality assurance arrangements monitor and when necessary improve the quality of care provided. The quality of care provided is effectively monitored by both the Registered Manager directly and also by an independent person who visits the home each month and reports on the quality of care provided. Practice demonstrates a focused commitment and ability to drive forward service development by leaders and managers.

A particular strength of the service is the team's commitment to providing a high quality of care and also to promoting service development. Comments from staff include 'we are always looking to see what else we could do or where we can improve'. Each aspect of care is effectively planned and kept under constant review. The very structured arrangements underpinning each overnight stay promotes young people's safety and wellbeing. Groupings of young people are well-planned in advance in order to reduce any negative impact or to promote attachments. The evening or day spent at the home is planned down to the very last detail to ensure that individual and group needs are met. This inspection notes there have been

numerous areas of recent service development and new initiatives. For example, additional Autism awareness training which has broadened the skills and knowledge of the staff team. New paperwork has improved the recording of the detail of any safeguarding concerns. While there were no concerns identified about the previous recording arrangements this new document further strengthens the protection of young people. A new wall board has been developed which is set at an accessible height on a main corridor showing young people engaging in activities and making choices during their visits. This promotes young people's sense of belonging and engagement.

A notable strength of the service is the emphasis afforded to ensuring that each young person, regardless of their disabilities, accesses a range of stimulating and enjoyable activities. Young people receive individualised support to make personal choices about the activities they engage in. Recent trips out include a visit to a trampoline club, visits to coffee shops and country parks. As a result young people learn new skills, become more confident and feel involved in the community.

Excellent partnership working ensures the provision of consistent care across all aspects of young people's lives. Staff engage with parents, placing social workers, community nurses and education settings to agree and then implement behaviour management strategies, communication needs and set current targets for young people. Comments from involved professionals include, 'Communication is very good, I receive updates by telephone and email'. Also, 'I note the team as working well with schools and parents'.

There is highly effective and supportive management of new referrals and transitional discharges. The team work closely with families and placing teams to support introductions to the service and to say a well-planned good-bye to young people moving on to adult services. Young people leave with memorabilia collated over the time they have accessed the short-break service. This will support young people to look back on the enjoyable experiences they engaged in at this home.

There are no requirements set against regulation nor recommendations to further improve practice. This is a testament to the high quality of care provided and the strong leadership and management of this home.

Information about this children's home

The home provides short breaks for young people with learning disabilities and physical disabilities. It provides short breaks for up to five young people at any one time.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
24/11/2014	Full	outstanding
24/03/2014	Interim	good progress
23/01/2014	Full	outstanding
24/01/2013	Interim	good 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.