

## Inspection report for Children's Home

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| <b>Unique reference number</b> | SC042994    |
| <b>Inspection date</b>         | 14/03/2011  |
| <b>Inspector</b>               | Elaine Cray |
| <b>Type of inspection</b>      | Random      |

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|--------------------------------|------------|
| <b>Date of last inspection</b> | 18/01/2011 |
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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**

The home provides short breaks for young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. Up to five young people can be accommodated at any one time. The building is single storey and provides accommodation for five young people in single bedrooms with appropriately adapted bathrooms in close proximity. There are two lounges, a dining room and a sensory room. Staff bedrooms are close to young people's rooms. There are also staff office areas located within the building. The home is located in a residential area, close to the town centre with easy access to local facilities and services. There is car parking space to the side of the building and the large enclosed gardens to the rear have a range of play equipment.

### **Summary**

The overall quality rating is good.

This is an overview of what the inspector found during the inspection.

This is an unannounced random inspection. The focus of this inspection is the judging of the key standards relating to the outcome group staying safe. This inspection reviews the progress the provider has made with four recommendations resulting from the previous inspection. One recommendation is repeated resulting from this inspection visit.

The evidence gathered on this interim inspection supports the findings of the full inspection in January 2011 confirming that the service continues to safeguard children to a good standard. However the carrying out of a night time fire drill remains outstanding.

### **Improvements since the last inspection**

The provision and recording of staff supervision is improved. There is also an improved recording format for the central documentation of sanctions and physical intervention. The home was also asked to improve fire safety by carrying out a night time fire drill. While there has been some development in assessing fire safety at night a drill has not been carried out and this recommendation is repeated.

### **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.

Young people are protected by effectively managed child protection, health and safety and behaviour management procedures. The home has clear policies and procedures regarding the recruitment of staff which are in line with the Children's Homes Regulations 2001 and national minimum standards. Visitors to the home are vetted to ensure the safety of young people. The home's records and discussion with the manager and staff demonstrate a good working relationship with the Local Safeguarding Children Board. There are clear procedures and accountable recording processes for recognising and responding to concerns. Staff are aware of who to notify about serious incidents in the home.

Staff are well-trained and they have a good understanding of the needs, behaviour and safety of young people. There are positive relationships between the staff, parents and school which facilitate consistent and familiar approaches to caring for young people. Young people are safe and enjoy their stay at the service because staff consistently implement practical care plans, behaviour plans and risk management strategies. Records are well maintained. Staff are good at exploring and assessing young people's presenting and sometimes complex behaviour. Young people benefit from interactive relationships with staff who promote clear boundaries and consistent expectations.

Staffing levels are high and the supervision of young people effectively monitors the individual needs and group dynamics of young people. There is a countering bullying policy. The high staffing levels are integral to protecting young people from the actions of others. Staff have an in-depth awareness of the needs and behaviours presented by the young people, including their complex communication needs. Staff have an excellent awareness about how the young people may display expressions of dissatisfaction and this is crucial in advocating and responding to young people's feelings and wishes. There is a written complaints procedure and an additional leaflet in symbol form to enable individuals who may not be able to read to understand the procedure.

Young people's needs in relation to personal and intimate care are detailed in their care plan and this, along with clear procedures for staff, ensures that young people's privacy and dignity is upheld.

The physical environment is well maintained and monitored in terms of health and safety and there is comprehensive and detailed documentation. The majority of fire safety procedures are checked and monitored, but carrying out a night time fire drill remains outstanding.

## **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 fire drills cover night time fire evacuation procedures (NMS 26.7).