

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC055780
Inspector	Chris Scully
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Residential special school (>295 days/year)

Registered person	Autism Initiatives (UK)
Registered person address	Autism Initiatives 7 Chesterfield Road Liverpool Merseyside L23 9XL
Responsible individual	Katharine Silver
Registered manager	Karen Lesley Taylor
Date of last inspection	16/07/2014

Inspection date	11/02/2015
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**.

The home continues to be led by a highly committed Registered Manager. Since the last inspection the Registered Manager has reduced their hours. This has not had a detrimental impact upon the running of the home because she is effectively supported by the three deputy managers. The management team now has clearly defined roles and areas of responsibility. This has significantly enhanced the monitoring of records, documentation and care practice. This includes the creation of an inspection file, which contains valuable information as to how the home is progressing and includes monthly updates, parental and social worker questionnaires and evaluations of the home's care practice.

The home has improved upon recording standards in a number of areas. For example, information about young people's medication is now consistently recorded across documentation, outstanding pathway plans and reviews are all in place. Managers are more able to analyse the physical interventions. This enables them to identify the reasons behind these incidents and implement strategies to reduce these. This has led to a decrease in the number of physical interventions in the home.

Young people's health care needs are met well. The recording and administration of medication is robust. Some health care plan lack information on conditions such as eczema and mobility issues. This is a recording issue as staff are clearly aware of the help and support in place for each young person. Effective support from staff has enabled some young people to undergo additional medical checks. This has resulted in young people getting the right medical support to resolve the issue.

Transition planning continues to be a strength of the provision. This is echoed by social workers who say the home provides 'excellent support for transitions to new environments.' This has been further enhanced as staff ensure health care plans,

risk assessments and personal support plans are in place for when the young people arrive. These are created following consultation with parents, social worker and previous carers of the young person. This provides a clear baseline assessment and support system for new young people.

Young people's views are actively sought and highly valued by staff. The implementation of new symbols around the home has significantly increased young people's choices and independence. This is because they are now more able to locate food items, such as cereals due to the 'real' photographs on kitchen cupboards. Social workers say young people are making 'significant progress' with their communication they are more able to express their needs and tell staff what activities they want to do. Also, young people are developing into 'mature young adults' as a result of their increased independence and self-esteem.

All young people have independent advocates to support them. The Registered Manager and deputies state this was an interesting process as it was vital that the advocates had a clear understanding of each young person's needs. Information about how to contact their advocate or Ofsted should a young person have a concern is clearly documented in their individualised young person's guide.

Young people continue to thrive in a caring and nurturing environment. The maintenance and décor of the home has significantly improved and provides a warm, homely environment for young people. Young people are confident to personalise their bedrooms and obviously feel at home here. For some young people this has meant adding colour and pictures to their room for the first time. Young people who are moving into the home have already begun to personalise their room in anticipation of the move.

Young people enjoy an extensive range of fun and stimulating activities in the home and community. They enjoy spending time relaxing after school with their friends, watching a DVD or playing on their computer tablets. Parents say, their child is 'doing fantastic' and they are amazed at some of the things they are doing.

Information about this children's home

The home is registered to care for up to eight young people with a learning disability. All young people considered for placement experience autistic spectrum disorder with associated communication and sensory impairment and possible learning disability. The home is owned by a national organisation. Young people who access this service access the organisation's school.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
16/07/2014	Full	good
26/03/2014	Interim	satisfactory progress
10/12/2013	Full	good
13/02/2013	Interim	good progress

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

Recommendations

To improve the quality and standards of care further the service should take account of the following recommendation(s):

- enhance further the promotion of young people's health care needs in particular health care plans clearly identify young people's medical conditions, such as eczema and mobility issues. (NMS 6.5)

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.