

## Inspection report for Children's Home

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| <b>Unique reference number</b> | SC059853         |
| <b>Inspection date</b>         | 06/12/2010       |
| <b>Inspector</b>               | Stella Henderson |
| <b>Type of inspection</b>      | Random           |

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|--------------------------------|------------|
| <b>Date of last inspection</b> | 16/06/2010 |
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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**

This local authority home provides a short-breaks service for up to six children and young people of either gender who are between the ages of eight and 18 years and who have a permanent and substantial disability.

The home is a purpose-built bungalow with facilities that are appropriate to meet the needs of the young people who use the service. The home has six bedrooms, three bathrooms, two lounges, a dining room and a kitchen and is appropriately adapted and equipped to meet the specific and diverse needs of the young people who stay. There is an enclosed garden area at the rear. The home is within walking distance of local shops and other amenities and the town centre is a brief car journey away.

One young person was present during this inspection.

## **Summary**

The overall quality rating is outstanding.

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

The purpose of this visit was to undertake an interim unannounced inspection. Key standards for staying safe were assessed and the home was found to be maintaining very high standards of care for young people.

Appropriate and effective measures are in place across a range of safeguarding issues. Close liaison with parents is a strength of the home and the staff team is experienced and stable, ensuring that young people enjoy good continuity of care. Effective auditing and risk assessments mean that young people continue to live in a safe environment.

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

No requirements or recommendations were made at the last inspection.

### **Helping children to be healthy**

The provision is not judged.

## **Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe**

The provision is outstanding.

Young people have their privacy and confidentiality respected. The identity of visitors is checked and files are stored securely in a locked cabinet in an office to which young people have no access. Arrangements for personal care are such that the privacy and dignity of young people are maintained, and their independence encouraged.

Staff work closely with parents, who know the needs of their children best. There is continual dialogue with parents which means that any concerns are dealt with at an early stage, although a complaints procedure is in place should parents or young people wish to use it.

The home continues to implement a wide range of appropriate measures to effectively safeguard young people. There is no bullying or unauthorised absences from the home due to very high levels of supervision and the building being secure. The staff group is experienced and receives regular child protection updates.

Each young person has an individualised behaviour management plan which takes into account their particular needs. Records show that praise forms an important element of shaping positive behaviours, however, recording of a recent restraint was not entirely compliant with these national minimum standards.

An effective auditing system ensures that the physical safety of young people is secured. This includes fire drills, electrical safety and a range of risk assessments relating to both environmental issues and the behaviours of young people.

Personnel records were not inspected on this occasion. Previous inspection of vetting and recruitment procedures demonstrate that only those who are assessed as suitable to work with young people are employed at the home.

## **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 all recordings of physical intervention are compliant with these national minimum standards. (NMS 22)