

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC062785
Inspection date	1 June 2009
Inspector	Jackie Graves
Type of Inspection	Random

Date of last inspection	23 January 2009
--------------------------------	-----------------

© Crown copyright 2009

Website: www.ofsted.gov.uk

This document may be reproduced in whole or in part for non-commercial educational purposes, provided that the information quoted is reproduced without adaptation and the source and date of publication are stated.

You can obtain copies of The Children Act 2004, Every Child Matters and The National Minimum Standards for Children's Services from: The Stationery Office (TSO) PO Box 29, St Cripins, Duke Street, Norwich, NR3 1GN. Tel: 0870 600 5522. Online ordering: www.tso.co.uk/bookshop

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 outcome for children set out in the Children Act 2004 and relevant National Minimum Standards for the establishment.

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 children's home is registered to accommodate up to eight children. The home offers respite and long term care for children and young people with a learning disability, aged between 10 and 18 years of age.

The service is provided in a large house in a residential area. Accommodation is provided over three floors. The service does not provide care for children and young people who use wheelchairs.

There are good transport links and the home is close to a shopping area.

Summary

This unannounced interim inspection is to look at a number of standards under Staying Safe and Organisation outcomes. Being Healthy, Enjoying and Achieving, Positive Contribution and Economic Wellbeing outcomes are not assessed on this occasion. Four children were present during the inspection.

The home continues to provide a good standard of care to children. There are positive relationships between staff and children. Staff work positively to encourage children to be as independent as possible.

One action and one recommendation are made as a result of this visit. As there are no significant changes to the service and not all standards are inspected, the overall rating of good remains.

The overall quality rating is good.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

Only one recommendation was made following the last inspection. The home was asked to ensure that children's play areas are kept free from additional items. These areas of the home are now kept clear, so promoting children's safety when they play.

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.

Staff manage children's behaviour with understanding and consistency, helping them to feel settled and secure in the home. Appropriate techniques are used to manage children's behaviour, such as distracting them with different activities or encouraging them to become calm in a quiet area of the home. Due to the children's needs, bullying is not an issue, but staff remain vigilant for any behaviour which could impact on another's.

There are effective systems to keep children safe within the home and when on trips out. Staff have written procedures to follow should a child go missing but are vigilant about preventing this, taking into consideration the extreme vulnerability of the children they care for. Staff

have a good understanding of the home's policy on child protection but not all have attended recent training so they can be fully confident in all aspects of safeguarding children.

Staff respect children's right to privacy and afford them as much privacy as possible whilst supervising their play and assisting them with personal care. Children are able to meet with their families in a separate room and their personal information is treated confidentially to respect their privacy. The system for addressing complaints is accessible to children and their families, so that people know how to raise any concerns and be confident of a timely response.

Positive steps are taken to keep children and staff safe from the risk from fire and other hazards. Frequent checks of alarms and fire systems contribute to the safety of the building and regular fire drills ensure staff and children know what to do in an emergency. The provider has made sure the home's gas systems are checked to promote safety on the premises.

Staff personnel records were not seen on this occasion and the staff recruitment process will be examined at the next inspection.

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 good.

The service provides written information in the form of a Statement of Purpose and children's guide to the home. These were viewed at the previous inspection and staff confirm these documents have been reviewed so that people have current information on the home.

Staff have access to training opportunities to help them develop general skills and knowledge, such as first aid and health and safety. More specialist training is also provided, such as in autism, to help staff understand how best to meet the needs of some children living in the home. Staff are knowledgeable about child protection and have read the home's policy but have not all received training in this recently. Employees are supported to achieve National Vocational Qualifications so that children are looked after by competent, trained staff.

Sufficient staff are employed to ensure children have a consistent team caring for them who can get to know their individual needs well. Staffing arrangements take into consideration children's ethnic and cultural backgrounds. Male and female staff are employed so that children may form relationships with staff of both genders and have choice for help with personal care. There are positive relationships between children and staff in a happy, family atmosphere. Staff work diligently to help children make progress and feel settled.

Regular visits are carried out on behalf of the registered person to monitor what happens in the home. However, some reports of these visits are not consistent in quality and do not cover all that is required, to check what happens in the home.

Clear and useful records of children's personal information are kept, so that there is a chronology of their time in the home and a record of their progress. Detailed risk assessments for individual children are used to plan how staff will meet their needs and reduce risk in their daily routines.

What must be done to secure future improvement?

Statutory requirements

This section sets out the actions, which must be taken so that the registered person meets the Care Standards Act 2000, The Childrens Homes Regulations 2001 and the National Minimum Standards. The Registered Provider must comply with the given timescales.

Standard	Action	Due date
33	ensure that the person carrying out monitoring visits interviews children if they wish and/or observes them, interviews their parents, relatives and people working in the home to form an opinion of the standard of care provided and review the quality of such reports (Regulation 33)	31 July 2009

Recommendations

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

- make sure all staff are appropriately trained in child protection (NMS 17.8)