

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC062785
Inspector	Sharon Lewis
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Registered manager	Nicola Anson
Date of last inspection	24/09/2014

Inspection date	16/03/2015
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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**.

This unannounced interim inspection evaluates children's progress and experiences since the last inspection in September 2014. Children flourish within a life enriching service, which has improved in effectiveness. Children are more confident, have greater communication, independence and social skills. Children are more altruistic, have increased finances and better emotional wellbeing. The home actively participates in consultation events and is significantly aware of the new regulatory changes. Children benefit from staff who have high morale. Parents express considerable satisfaction with the quality of care. There are no requirements or recommendations from this inspection. The service is dynamically evolving and there is an earnest desire to provide outstanding care.

The home complies with requirements from the last inspection. Children receive better protection from the home's recruitment practices and robust sanction records. Improvements in the recruitment policy demonstrate how disclosure and barring checks prevent unsuitable people from working with children. Sanction records now have a section to comment on their effectiveness. This ensures disciplinary measures promote the best interests of children. The Statement of Purpose provides greater detail on restraint training and staff competency. This provides transparency relating to the home's physical intervention practices.

There is a robust admission procedure. Parents highlight that their 'initial anxiety' has been 'replaced by calm'. They highlight that they are 'surprised by the level of care'. Parents valued their involvement in care planning, stating they have 'a positive and honest relationship and all work together'. Parents highlight that children are achieving their full potential and the home is giving children the 'best chance to shine as an adult'.

Children benefit from the home's strong safeguarding practices. A comprehensive

location assessment highlights the risk factors in the area. This research promotes changes; an example is the high car crime in the area, resulting in increased security measures. Staff benefit from a wider range of safeguarding training including child sexual exploitation and protecting both adults and children. Management proactively respond to possible safeguarding concerns and have a good working relationship with safeguarding personnel.

Children benefit from the home's inclusiveness and welcoming attitude towards their families. Parents were able to celebrate Christmas at the home with their children. They also are invited to the home's various parties. The hosting of a coffee morning and subsequent consultation was an excellent opportunity for parents to further influence the service. Staff now undertake a clothing inventory and have special arrangements for respite children's laundry. The aim is to prevent items going missing. Parents highlight that the home opens their children to 'new experiences and foods' and they are 'forever grateful'. They comment that their children are 'well looked after, loved and cared for'. Staff actively assist with supervised contact. They also advocate for children to spend increased quality time with their parents at the home.

Children have a greater influence on their care planning arrangements. They are currently working in partnership with staff, implementing their individual progress targets. These relate to promoting their independence, examples include using self-service checkouts and posting letters. Through partnership working with schools, children are able to incorporate their personal education plan targets. This provides continuity of learning for children, an example being building up their independent living skills. Parents highlight that they 'can see a big improvement'.

Children demonstrate selflessness through their extensive charitable and community work. They engage in numerous events, fundraising for wide ranging national and international charities. Children have a calendar detailing their altruistic activities. They also volunteer at their local church, assisting with cleaning the hall. There are ongoing plans to positively impact their local community. Within the home, children can also earn points for helping others, kindness and using their initiative.

Children are excelling in the management of their behaviour. They enjoy visually seeing their achievements through the home's reward system. Children also enjoy the competitive aspect of becoming the 'House Point Champion'. They can earn points for their good behaviour, which helps them learn what is socially acceptable. Children are very settled and they have improved moods. There is a significant decrease in challenging incidents. Since the last inspection there have been no restraints or sanctions. Children have also been discharged from mental health services.

Children continue to lead active social lives both within and outside of the home. They enjoy celebrating seasonal events and birthdays. They were looking forward to their St Patrick Day party and previously enjoyed parties at Christmas and Valentine's

Day. They express their creativity by producing Mother's Day cards and engaging in arts and crafts. Children have the opportunity to socialise with their peers at youth clubs and discos. They continue to enjoy going to the cinema, out shopping, to church and theme parks. The home works hard to develop children's strengths, hobbies and interests.

Children influence care practices and also wider social care. An example of the latter is providing feedback to a renowned children's charitable organisation. They also provide meaningful suggestions during house meetings. Children have greater autonomy over their lives through the involvement of advocates. Older children benefit from the home's successful application for 16 plus grants. This results in their increased personal finances. They contribute to the running of the home and developing their leadership skills through helping with fire warden duties. This further enhances their knowledge of fire safety and the importance of a prompt evacuation.

Children benefit from good quality assurance arrangements, which comply with regulations. Reports provide an evaluative and reflective overview of the quality of care. The home positively works in partnership with external agencies. They have strong relationships with health services, placing authorities, educational establishments, churches and leading children's and learning disability organisations. Management endeavour to influence governmental regulatory policy through participating in consultation events. They also attend local events within their host authority, which further cements their knowledge. There is a very proactive approach to the new changes, which includes devising a comprehensive training schedule.

Children are cared for by competent enthusiastic staff who receive extensive ongoing training. Topics covered since the last inspection include equality and diversity, food hygiene, medication, health and safety, autism and sensory awareness. Ongoing training enables staff to protect and purposely meet children's individual needs. Children comment that staff are 'nice' and they highlight that a specific staff member is 'like a mum'. Parents describe the staff as 'fantastic', highlighting their 'friendliness and knowledge'. They state they are 'impressed with all aspects of the home' and would score the home '10 out of 10'.

Information about this children's home

This children's home is privately owned. It is registered with Ofsted to accommodate up to nine children. It offers long-term care, as well as respite care for children and young people with a learning disability.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
24/09/2014	Full	good
06/02/2014	Interim	good progress
29/10/2013	Full	good
14/12/2012	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.