

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC065730
Inspection date	4 January 2010
Inspector	Stella Henderson
Type of Inspection	Random

Date of last inspection	3 August 2009
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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 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

The home provides a residential short break service for children with a range of disabilities, including learning disabilities, physical disabilities and complex health needs. It is community based and close to local amenities and resources.

The home is very well resourced and meets young people's needs well. Bedrooms have sufficient space for lifting equipment and some rooms have overhead tracking for hoists. All bedrooms have en suite facilities which include a shower, toilet, wash basin and grab rails.

The garden areas are separate with a garden play area containing a tarmac track for quad bikes and a sensory garden. The second garden contains outdoor recreational play equipment for young people who enjoy more physical activities. Two mini buses provide further opportunity for young people to have trips out during their stay.

Summary

This was an unannounced interim inspection to assess how well children and young people are helped and supported to stay safe and how the home is being managed. Recommendations made at the previous inspection were also assessed for compliance.

Good management oversight ensures that standards of care are maintained and improved upon. Suitable staffing arrangements means that children and young people's needs are met and their well-being safeguarded. Staff have the appropriate training, skills and knowledge to provide a good level of care and support to children and young people visiting the home.

The overall quality rating is good.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection recommendations were made in respect of documentation relating to diet, supervision, risk assessments and statutory reviews. Evidence from this inspection demonstrates that these recommendations have now been met.

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.

The home continues to provide a service which safeguards and promotes the welfare of children and young people. Policies, procedures and guidance on safeguarding matters are in place and staff receive regular training in child protection matters. Young people's privacy is respected. They are well supported with their personal care needs and records about them are stored safely to maintain appropriate levels of confidentiality.

One complaint has been made since the last inspection and this has been responded to promptly, evidencing that the complaints procedure works effectively. Absconding and bullying are not issues of concern at the home and physical restraint is not used.

Effective systems are in place for securing the health and safety of children and young people, inclusive of fire and environmental safety. Risk assessments are formulated to help provide guidance to staff on how to help and care for children and young people with very complex needs.

No new staff have been employed at the home since the last inspection but there are good procedures to ensure that only those suitable to work with children and young people are employed at the home. Disciplinary procedures are invoked when necessary to ensure that children and young people are safeguarded.

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 management of the home continues to be good, and the home works within the remit of its Statement of Purpose which is updated when required.

Children and young people are cared for by caring, competent and skilled staff who receive regular support through supervision, team meetings and training opportunities. Any shortfalls in practice identified are responded to and discussed in the regular team meetings or taken up during individual supervision sessions.

The numbers of staff on duty are arranged according to the numbers and needs of children and young people visiting and a low staff turnover ensures consistency and stability.

The manager maintains good standards of care by monitoring the systems and quality of care offered to children and young people, and there is regular discussion with other managers and staff on how to improve practice. Regulation 33 visits are undertaken monthly to monitor the overall care and welfare of the young people and the reports are very thorough.

The home keeps detailed records of what children and young people do when they visit. This and other information recorded on young people's records meets legal requirements.

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
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Recommendations

There are no recommendations.