

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC065730
Inspector	Rachel Griffiths
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Registered person	Derby City Council
Registered person address	Treasurers Department Council House, Corporation Street DERBY DE1 2FE
Responsible individual	Rodney Leopold Jones
Registered manager	Elizabeth Gaskin
Date of last inspection	30/10/2014

Inspection date	27/03/2015
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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 **sustained effectiveness**.

Outcomes for children and young people who have short breaks at this service continue to be good. During their break, children and young people have fun and they develop valuable life and social skills. A parent said: 'My child gets so much out of the service. It is like them having a sleepover with friends.' Another parent commented: 'My child loves their short break. It has taught them how to cope with and enjoy different experiences. It has helped build their confidence and they have really made progress socially.' As a result, the quality of children's and young people's lives is enhanced.

Children and young people are very well prepared for when they start having short breaks at this service. A social worker said: 'Before coming to stay there is excellent pre-planning. Staff visit children and young people at home and they liaise closely with parents and school staff. Children and young people then have tea visits. Staff understand each child's or young person's individual needs well before they start having their short break.' Careful planning and preparation for placements ensure that children and young people have the best opportunity to successfully settle into the home and feel reassured and more secure in their new environment.

Staff continue to provide children and young people with an excellent quality of care. They are very knowledgeable in respect of children's and young people's complex individual needs and styles of communication. A parent commented: 'The staff know my child so well. They can read their emotions. They just understand them.' Staff are committed, caring and enthusiastic. They have high aspirations for children and young people. Children's and young people's achievements are celebrated. Their artwork, star of the month awards and many photographs of children and young people enjoying a wide range of activities and experiences are displayed around the home. This demonstrates how much fun children and young people have during their short breaks. It also reminds children and young people how proud staff

are of them. This helps raise their confidence and self-esteem.

The home is a physically safe and secure environment. Children and young people are well supported and supervised at all times. Parents report high satisfaction about the safety of their child or young person during their short breaks. A parent said: 'I know my child is in safe hands. I do not have to worry; I can fully relax while they are at the service.'

Children's and young people's sometimes challenging and complex behaviours continue to be well managed as a result of staff knowing each child or young person well and consistently implementing positive and proactive behaviour strategies. There have been no sanctions or physical interventions since well before the last inspection. This is testament to the skills and experience of staff in supporting and de-escalating challenging behaviour.

The management of this home continues to be effective. A skilled and consistent staff team feels well supported and remains highly dedicated to improving the life experiences of children and young people. Following the last inspection, action has been taken in response to the one recommendation made. Recruitment practice in the home is now more robust as a result of a system being established to verify references by telephone prior to any newly appointed staff commencing employment. Consequently, only those people who are suitable to work with children and young people and do not pose a risk to their safety are employed.

Managers and leaders have been swift to take action following the delay of one day in reporting a safeguarding concern which was raised in February 2015. While in this instance there was no impact on the safety of any child or young person in the home, any delay prevents immediate and thorough independent investigations being undertaken. This ultimately has the potential to impact on levels of safety in the home. Lessons have been learnt. Immediately following this incident, a robust action plan has been progressed to improve safeguarding practice, specifically in relation to reporting concerns. As this plan is yet to be fully implemented, a requirement is set in relation to this.

Quality assurance monitoring of the home, both externally and internally, continues to be effective in identifying strengths and minor shortfalls in the home. Shortfalls are promptly addressed. This, as well as the home's development plan, is indicative of a service which strives to continually improve the standard of care it provides for children and young people.

Information about this children's home

This local authority home is registered to provide care and accommodation for up to 10 children and young people with sensory impairment and learning and physical disabilities under short break arrangements.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
30/10/2014	Full	good
18/03/2014	Interim	good progress
18/12/2013	Full	good
20/02/2013	Interim	good progress

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

Statutory Requirements

This section sets out the actions which must be taken so that the registered person/s meets the Care Standards Act 2000, Children's Homes Regulations 2001 and the National Minimum Standards. The registered person(s) must comply with the given timescales.

Reg.	Requirement	Due date
11 (2001)	ensure that the children's home is conducted so as to promote and make proper provision for the safeguarding and welfare of children accommodated there. (Regulation 11(1)(a))	22/05/2015

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.