

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC066651
Inspector	Monica Hargreaves
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Registered person	Sheffield City Council
Registered person address	Sheffield City Council, Town Hall Pinstone Street SHEFFIELD S1 2HH
Responsible individual	Dorne Collinson
Registered manager	Gary Levesley
Date of last inspection	27/11/2014

Inspection date	04/03/2015
Previous inspection	good
Enforcement action since last inspection	There has been no enforcement action since the last inspection.

This inspection

This home was judged good at the last full inspection. At this interim inspection Ofsted judge that it has **improved effectiveness**.

Two recommendations were made at the last inspection. These related to information about young people's reviews and one aspect of the transition process. Both recommendations are met. The manager ensures that notes are taken at young people's reviews. This enables staff to update plans promptly without having to wait for formal minutes and means that they have the information they need to care for young people during their stays. The manager has also ensured that there is a transition plan in place for a young person who is due to move to adult services, which identifies the provision they will move to. Staff work effectively with parents and social workers to support young people through the transition process. The local authority is further developing the arrangements that are in place to ensure that social workers put transition plans in place at an early stage for those young people who are moving on from this service.

Young people's overall progress is promoted by their stays in this service. They are well cared for by a consistent and competent team of staff who have a very good understanding of their needs and who value them as individuals. Staff help young people to develop their social skills and to become more independent, for example, in making choices and being more independent with self-care. Staff are keen to ensure that young people get the most from their stays in the home. They help young people to choose what they would like to do when they stay. Activities are well planned to meet the specific needs and abilities of young people so that they can get the most from them. Young people enjoy trips out with staff and make good use of the home's resources, such as the ball pool, computers, games and outdoor play equipment. Sometimes young people simply choose to 'chill out', listen to music or watch DVDs.

Because of the nature of the service, parents retain responsibility for their child's

education. Staff ensure that the continuity of young people's education is maintained when they stay in the home. They have very good links with schools and they attend education meetings. This ensures that they understand the support young people need to help them to achieve their targets. The home is suitably resourced to support young people's learning and general development through play and activities.

Young people's health needs are well met when they stay for short breaks, although parents retain the overall responsibility for their child's health. They are given nutritious meals and their physical and emotional well-being is supported through involvement in activities.

Staff ensure that there is regular meaningful consultation with young people. As young people stay only one night each week, staff make sure that there is a separate meeting with each group of young people on their first night in the home each month. Young people use a variety of different ways to communicate their wishes and feelings and staff understand these well. They help young people to make their views known about a range of issues that affect their stays. This includes the activities they want to be part of, menus and how they are feeling generally. Young people make colourful displays that reflect their views. For example, 'I like to go shopping', 'I am happy' and 'I like coffee'. In the house meetings, staff also help young people to learn about things such as the importance of privacy and how to keep themselves safe. Young people have fun during these sessions as well as developing their confidence.

Staff support young people and their families at times of transition. They plan new placements very carefully, at a pace that is appropriate to the individual young person. Parents and young people visit the home on a number of occasions before young people have their first overnight stay. This allows young people to become familiar with the home and the staff who will look after them. It also ensures that staff develop a clear understanding of young people's preferred routines and how they communicate.

Professionals report that the safety of young people is a very high priority for staff. Individual risk assessments fully address young people's complex needs. Staff know the young people they look after very well and understand their vulnerabilities. They work together very effectively to implement young people's plans. Consequently young people are cared for very safely. There have been no incidents of young people going missing from this service. Bullying is not an issue, although staff are aware that because of their complex needs, some young people can at times target others. This risk is addressed in their plans and staff supervise young people appropriately to ensure that they are all protected.

Some young people's behaviour can be disruptive due to their complex needs. Staff are trained to manage challenging behaviour and they do this very well. They supervise young people effectively and are able to distract young people to other

activities. As a result of the way they work, staff rarely need to restrain young people. There have been two episodes that have resulted in a physical intervention since the last inspection. These were managed at the lowest level needed to ensure young people's safety.

The home is managed effectively. Monitoring arrangements are robust, ensuring that there is very good oversight of the care that is given to young people. The manager and staff are keen to ensure that the service continues to develop. The manager is currently implementing new arrangements to get feedback from parents in order to ensure that their views are captured and can be used to inform improvements.

No requirements or recommendations have been made as a result of this inspection.

Information about this children's home

The home is run by a local authority as part of its service to disabled children and their families. The home offers residential short break care to six young people with severe learning disabilities, some of whom have complex and challenging behaviour.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
27/11/2014	Full	good
12/03/2014	Interim	good progress
15/11/2013	Full	good
28/01/2013	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.