

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	12/03/2014
Inspector	Ann-Marie Born
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	15/11/2013
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Service information

Brief description of the service

The home is run by a local authority as part of its service to children with disabilities 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.

The inspection judgements and what they mean

Good progress	The children's home has demonstrated continued improvement in quality of care and outcomes for children and young people and where appropriate has addressed all requirements and the large majority of recommendations that were raised at the previous inspection.
Satisfactory progress	The children's home has maintained quality of care and outcomes for children and young people and where appropriate has addressed all requirements and the majority of recommendations that were raised at the previous inspection.
Inadequate progress	The children's home has failed to address one or more requirements and/or has not met the majority of recommendations and/or the quality of care and outcomes for children and young people have declined since the last full inspection.

Progress

Since their previous inspection the service is judged to be making **good progress**.

This home was judged as good overall at the previous full inspection in November 2013. Following this interim inspection the home is judged to be making good progress and has successfully addressed the two requirements and three recommendations previously identified. This inspection identifies one recommendation relating to day-to-day care.

The quality of care in this home remains exceedingly high. All children and young people's care plans have been systematically reviewed by the manager and revised to reflect progress and any changes. Consequently, all of a young person's individual and holistic needs are identified and addressed. This consistent practice enables children and young people's achievements to be recognised and built upon. Thus enriching their respite experience and enhancing self-esteem and feelings of self-worth. For example, a staff member wrote, 'he can now ride the 3 wheel trike and particularly enjoys this'.

Parents and professionals all report extremely positively about the care children and

young people receive. One parent said: 'staff are fantastic and he does enjoy going. Its respite for us as well and it is a Godsend' and another, 'he's making progress and really enjoys it'. However, some parents also expressed dissatisfaction at arrangements to ensure that their children return from respite with their own clothing. The manager is aware that this is an issue and is taking steps to improve the process.

The much improved children's guide is individualised for the setting and is available in a range of appropriate formats. This inclusive document effectively meets the needs of the children and young people enjoying respite care. Children and young people have an awareness of the services provided by the home before they start to attend thereby enhancing opportunities for success and progress.

Following the last inspection the manager has ensured that every child or young person receiving respite care has had the opportunity to participate in a fire evacuation drill. This proactive practice is complemented by excellent individual personal evacuation plans which ensure that all children and young people's unique needs are identified and planned for. As a result, children and young people are effectively safeguarded. A parent said: 'she definitely enjoys going, always has a smile on her face when she comes home. She is in a safe environment'.

Children and young people are further safeguarded by comprehensive procedures which ensure that they would be offered the services of a medical practitioner following any episode of restraint. However, as a result of the warm and sustainable relationships promoted by the strong, committed and nurturing staff team positive behaviour is promoted and physical interventions are rarely needed. A social work manager stated: 'we are very very happy with the placement and the quality of care he receives, the environment there and the commitment of staff. He is coming on really really well. They have improved his life'.

There has been a marked improvement in the level of consistency in supervision arrangements for staff. Consequently children and young people are cared for by staff who are well supported and happy in their roles. A parent commented about a staff member: 'I can't speak highly enough about her. He really trusts her and he is happy with her and going there, can't say much more than that for a child like him with these needs'.

Children and young people enjoy their respite stays in a clean, comfortable home which is well equipped to meet their individual needs. In addition, since the last inspection the home have instituted a new system to enhance children and young people's communication and sense of belonging. Parents are encouraged to provide treasured items which remain in the home. These are combined with individual activities charts for each day and are used to personalise bedrooms in anticipation of children and young people's arrival. As a result children and young people's sense of security and well-being are enhanced enabling them to participate fully in the inclusive activities provided and have increased confidence in suggesting activities. For example, a 'One Direction' evening. One parent stated: 'the staffing ratio is very

good and the facilities are excellent, that will give him that stepping stone in to adult life' and another parent said, 'she is making real progress socially' .

Areas for improvement

Recommendations

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

- ensure that the daily routine of the home promotes every aspect of the child's welfare, with particular regard to children's clothing. (Volume 5, statutory guidance, paragraph 2.39)

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 progress made by the provider since the last full inspection, identifies any further strengths, any areas for improvement and makes judgements as outlined in the *Inspection of children's homes – framework for inspection*.