

Children's homes inspection - Full

Inspection date	28/10/2015
Unique reference number	SC066651
Type of inspection	Full
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	Ms Dorne Collinson
Registered manager	Mr Garry Levesley
Inspector	Stella Henderson

Inspection date	28/10/2015
Previous inspection judgement	improved effectiveness
Enforcement action since last inspection	None
This inspection	
The overall experiences and progress of children and young people living in the home are	Outstanding
The children's home provides highly effective services that consistently exceeds the standards of good. The actions of the home contribute to significantly improved outcomes for children and young people who need help, protection and care.	
how well children and young people are helped and protected	Good
the impact and effectiveness of leaders and managers	Good

SC066651

Summary of findings

The children's home provision is outstanding because:

- The home is highly effective in delivering short breaks that meet the complex needs of children and young people.
- Highly individualised care planning, devised in collaboration with parents and professionals, helps children and young people achieve their individual goals.
- Children and young people benefit from the flexibility of the service that is built around their individual needs. It is a service that is highly regarded by parents and other professionals.
- Effective monitoring ensures that excellent standards of care are maintained and helps to drive forward improvement.

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

Recommendations

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

- Children must be consulted regularly on their views about the home's care, to inform and support continued improvement in the quality of care provided. Due consideration should be given to the child's cognitive ability in the development and implementation of any consultation process. Children should be able to see the results of their views being listened to and acted upon. (The Guide to the Quality Standards, page 22, paragraph 14.11) Specifically improve the recording of children's views and preferences.
- The registered person should support staff to be ambitious for every child in the home and gain skills and experience that enable them to actively support each child to achieve their potential. (The Guide to the Quality Standards, page 52, paragraph 10.5) Specifically explore additional training on autism.

Full report

Information about this children's home

The home is run by a local authority. It offers 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
04/03/2015	Interim	improved effectiveness
27/11/2014	Full	Good
12/03/2014	Interim	Good Progress
15/11/2013	Full	Good

Inspection Judgements

	Judgement grade
The overall experiences and progress of children and young people living in the home are	outstanding
Children and young people enjoy an exceptional level of care at this short break home. Staff know each of them and their families really well. Staff are acutely perceptive to the highly complex needs of each individual and their challenging behaviours are managed with care, diligence and perseverance. This is hugely reassuring for parents. One parent noted, 'Their knowledge of him and how to manage him is invaluable.' Children and young people benefit immensely from their short breaks. This is reflected in many ways; they have fun here and make new friends. They take part in a lot of different activities and improvements are seen in behaviours and acquiring new skills. Given the extent of their highly complex needs, this often represents significant progress. For example, one young person is assessed as being, 'now very patient around meal times. He will sit in the kitchen and will tolerate waiting for his food.' Another has achieved their goals by, 'remaining calm and communicating well by using eye contact.' These are changes which may take many months or even years to achieve. Throughout this time staff work very effectively with other professionals to set goals and re-inforce the help and support given at home and school. Parents are highly appreciative of the service and the attentive care their children receive. One parent said, 'Short breaks have been so important for my daughter's independence but so good for all our family. It makes such a difference to our quality of life bringing positivity and energy.' A parent of twins liked the way that, 'staff treat them as individuals in their own right.' For another parent it was the attention to detail that makes this an excellent resource saying, 'Staff decorated my child's bedroom with her favourite pop star. This meant so much for my child and me. It was kind, very thoughtful and caring.' The service is held in high regard by professionals. A social worker noted, 'I have found the quality of care in relation to my young person of a high quality. They are attentive to his needs, support him in his daily routines, promote his independence and encourage him to engage in activities.' A community psychiatric nurse described how families had been helped out in times of crisis, with the manager and staff 'going the extra mile' to prevent family breakdown and, 'an ability to stay child-focused when things got difficult.'	

	Judgement grade
How well children and young people are helped and protected	good
Parents say that their children are eager to attend their short breaks at the home and are happy on their return. Parents see this as an indication that their children feel at ease and are safe. Parents say they would have no hesitation at raising concerns with the manager. They know how to make complaints and would do so on their children's behalf. One parent commented, 'I know how to make a complaint but am still waiting for a situation to arise where I would have to.' The manager makes a point of 'walking the floor', both to meet with children and their parents and to observe practice. Care is taken in arranging short breaks so that children, whose behaviour may sometimes present a risk to others, can be given the staffing ratio they require so that every child gets the best out of their stay. A number of other measures ensure that children and young people are safe at the home. They are protected by well-managed medication regimes which are monitored by the looked after children's nurse. Staff help children and young people develop an awareness of personal safety by showing videos on 'safe touch' and e-safety. Each child has a personal evacuation escape plan and there is consideration of the individual risks that the home may present for each individual. For example, one young person has minimal furniture in his bedroom in order to reduce the danger to himself.	

	Judgement grade
The impact and effectiveness of leaders and managers	good
The Registered Manager has a Level 5 award in leadership and management. He has managed the home since 2009.	

The manager leads a team who work closely with parents and professionals to ensure that short-break stays add value to the life of every child. From this collaboration come clear and informative plans, tailored to meet their individual needs. These could be further improved to ensure the views of children and young people are fully captured.

The staff team have a good deal of expertise in understanding learning disabilities. Training is available to ensure they have refresher training on topics such as first aid, medication and safeguarding. To further support staff, consideration should be given to additional or advanced learning on autism. This would ensure staff are up to date with current research and practice.

Overall staff feel they receive good management support. They meet regularly and plan shifts to ensure that children and young people are safe, able to engage in the activities on offer and helped to meet their goals.

The way that children and young people are looked after, the quality of care they are receiving and how well they are safeguarded are effectively scrutinised by the manager and the independent visitor. This helps to maintain very high standards of care and identify further areas for improvement.

What the inspection judgements mean

The experiences and progress of children and young people are at the centre of the inspection. Inspectors will use their professional judgement to determine the weight and significance of their findings in this respect. The judgements included in the report are made against *Inspection of children's homes: framework for inspection*.

An **outstanding** children's home provides highly effective services that contribute to significantly improved outcomes for children and young people who need help and protection and care. Their progress exceeds expectations and is sustained over time.

A **good** children's home provides effective services that help, protect and care for children and young people and have their welfare safeguarded and promoted.

In a children's home that **requires improvement**, there are no widespread or serious failures that create or leave children being harmed or at risk of harm. The welfare of looked after children is safeguarded and promoted. Minimum requirements are in place, however, the children's home is not yet delivering good protection, help and care for children and young people.

A children's home that is **inadequate** is providing services where there are widespread or serious failures that create or leave children and young people being harmed or at risk of harm or result in children looked after not having their welfare safeguarded and promoted.

Information about this inspection

Inspectors have looked closely at the experiences and progress of children and young people living in the children's home. Inspectors considered the quality of work and the difference adults make to the lives of children and young people. They read case files, watched how professional staff work with children, young people and each other and discussed the effectiveness of help and care given to children and young people. Wherever possible, they talked to children, young people and their families. In addition the inspectors have tried to understand what the children's home knows about how well it is performing, how well it is doing and what difference it is making for the children and young people who it is trying to help, protect and look after.

This 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 Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015 and the *Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards*.

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