

Inspection report for children's home

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|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Unique reference number</b> | SC067810        |
| <b>Inspector</b>               | Sharon Lewis    |
| <b>Type of inspection</b>      | Interim         |
| <b>Provision subtype</b>       | Children's home |

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|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Registered manager</b>      | Carmel Cindy Willis |
| <b>Date of last inspection</b> | 06/03/2014          |

|                        |            |
|------------------------|------------|
| <b>Inspection date</b> | 12/11/2014 |
|------------------------|------------|

|                                          |            |
|------------------------------------------|------------|
| Previous inspection                      | not judged |
| Enforcement action since last inspection | none       |

## This inspection

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

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There are currently no children placed at the home. There has been a recent change in the name of the home and their category of registration. The inspection focuses on whether the registration requirements continue to be met and whether the home is suitable to accommodate children. The home intends to provide care fundamentally for children with a learning disability. The home is also registered for children with emotional and behavioural needs. The proposed manager explained that the home will not accept mainstream children with emotional behavioural needs. The home aims to meet the needs of younger children or those who are 'less streetwise' and 'present with low risks.'

Children benefit from their own pictorial guide which outlines what they can expect from the home in clear, simple language. The guide is suited to their understanding and communication needs. The only issue is that it does not include the Children's Commissioner details. This person has taken over from the role and responsibilities from the Children's Rights Director. The Statement of Purpose has been updated to include the registered providers' details, experience and qualifications of staff and the proposed age range of children. This document is being updated as staff are appointed. The Statement of Purpose must also clarify details concerning the on-site education arrangements.

The organisation has effectively addressed the requirements from the major variation visit in August 2014. Children benefit from improved health and safety arrangements, which effectively safeguards and promotes their welfare. The home has a concise environmental risk assessment. Children receive protection from the

covered radiators and plug sockets and signage highlights the hot and cold water taps. Pictures and mirrors are fixed and safely secured to the walls and there are no hanging cords. The home provides a pleasant living environment all furniture is in good condition and the property and garden is well-maintained. Bedrooms have suitable window coverings to promote the privacy and dignity of children. All parts of the home are secure from unauthorised access. The side gate is secured and the broken window handles have been repaired.

The home has a training programme which ensures children will receive care from staff who are first aid trained and have appropriate training to meet the needs of autistic children. The staff training programme also covers the pictorial exchange communication system, safeguarding, mental health, medication, care and control, food hygiene and fire safety. The responsible individual will be undertaking ongoing training to ensure he has the experience and skills necessary for carrying on the children's home. The proposed manager is also currently completing a masters degree which focus on therapeutic communities with children. The proposed manager is a former Registered Manager. They were initially registered with Ofsted in 2009, for another home within the organisation. This individual has experience of working with disabled children. They also have a proven track history of managing good and outstanding children's home.

## Information about this children's home

### Recent inspection history

| Inspection date | Inspection type | Inspection judgement |
|-----------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| 06/03/2014      | Interim         | not judged           |
| 23/09/2013      | Full            | adequate             |
| 27/09/2012      | Interim         | good progress        |
| 28/05/2012      | Full            | good                 |

### 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   |
|----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| 4 (2001) | update the statement of purpose to further clarify the education provision within the home.<br>(Regulation (4) (1)) | 01/02/2015 |

### Recommendations

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

- ensure the children's guide includes the independent reviewing officer and Children's Commissioner details. (NMS 13.5)

## **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.