

Inspection report for Children's Home

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Inspector	Caroline Oldham
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Date of last inspection	29/11/2010
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You can obtain copies of The Children Act 2004, Every Child Matters and The National Minimum Standards for Children's Services from: The Stationery Office (TSO) PO Box 29, St Crispins, Duke Street, Norwich, NR3 1GN. Tel: 0870 600 5522. Online ordering: www.tso.co.uk/bookshop

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.

This report details the main strengths and any areas for improvement identified during the inspection. The judgements included in the report are made in relation to the outcomes for children set out in the Children Act 2004 and the relevant National Minimum Standards for the service.

The inspection judgements and what they mean

Outstanding:	this aspect of the provision is of exceptionally high quality
Good:	this aspect of the provision is strong
Satisfactory:	this aspect of the provision is sound
Inadequate:	this aspect of the provision is not good enough

Service information

Brief description of the service

This service provides short breaks for young people who have a learning difficulty. The premises provide adapted accommodation to support the young people's needs. There are two adjacent lounge areas, a dining room, a kitchen which may be accessed by young people with supervision, two bathrooms, an office and storage space, a covered play area outside and garden areas. The home is situated in a residential area within easy travelling distance from a range of community resources.

Summary

The overall quality rating is outstanding.

This is an overview of what the inspector found during the inspection.

This unannounced interim inspection focused on reassessing the key standards on staying safe. The outcome areas; being healthy, enjoying and achieving, positive contribution, economic well-being and organisation were not looked at during this inspection.

The home has a highly skilled and long established staff team who are focused and committed to ensuring the provision for respite care is the very best they can offer the young people and their families. The staff team know the young people very well and are sensitive and considerate of their complex needs. Young people are kept safe and through careful behaviour management strategies are learning to keep themselves safe in the community.

Improvements since the last inspection

There were no previous actions or recommendations resulting from the last inspection.

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is not judged.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

Young people continue to have their privacy highly respected and arrangements are made to ensure that both they, and their possessions, are kept safe. There are

comprehensive policies and procedures for dealing securely with young people's confidential information: this ensures that young people are kept safe and information is only shared with those who need to know.

There have been no complaints since the last inspection. The long established staff team know the young people and their families very well. They seek parents views and feedback in a variety of ways. Staff are very aware of the vulnerability of the young people, and their additional communication needs. For example, staff use alternative pictorial communication methods to ascertain their views, to ensure that young people have an enjoyable experience when staying in the home.

Staff receive comprehensive training in safeguarding and are fully conversant with all the relevant policies and reporting procedures for referring issues of concern appropriately. They are very protective of the young people and are able to deal with any concerns about young people's welfare. Staff are aware of the potential for bullying and offer respite care to young people with consideration to risk assessments, to ensure that they are protected from bullying or the dominating behaviours of others. Consequently, young people are kept safe by well informed and dedicated staff.

Staff have an excellent approach to young people's behaviour management which they approach with sensitivity. Every child has a behaviour management plan which is devised in conjunction with other professionals and the parents. This ensures consistency of approach and produces innovative ideas to manage undesirable behaviour. As a result of this young people are learning to manage their behaviour and to cope well in the community.

Staff take positive steps to ensure that young people are kept safe from harm while in the building and the grounds. Annual and weekly health and safety and electrical checks are monitored to a high standard. Fire drills take place regularly and there are routine checks and servicing of the fire alarm system and fire extinguishers. The home is exceedingly well maintained; repairs are prioritised appropriately and maintenance work quickly rectifies any damage. Consequently young people live in a home that is safe and very well maintained and they are protected from potential hazards.

There are robust recruitment procedures in place, although the home has not recruited any new permanent staff since the last key inspection. All staff are aware of and implement the policy and procedures for monitoring and managing visitors to the home, this ensures that only those who should have access to the young people do so.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is not judged.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is not judged.

Achieving economic wellbeing

The provision is not judged.

Organisation

The organisation is not judged.