

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC397293
Inspector	Tracy Murty
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Registered person	Derby City Council
Registered person address	Treasurers Department Council House, Corporation Street DERBY DE1 2FE
Responsible individual	Rodney Leopold Jones
Registered manager	Gemma Bullock
Date of last inspection	28/08/2014

Inspection date	21/01/2015
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Previous inspection	good
Enforcement action since last inspection	None

This inspection

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

The Registered Manager has ensured that the two requirements and one recommendation made at the last inspection have been fully considered and addressed. There is now a secure system in place for recording any incidents of physical restraint in the home. This prevents the potential for records to be removed or tampered with.

Records relating to the care provided to young people are clear and comprehensive. The Registered Manager has devised and implemented clearer systems and structures to ensure that all records and documentation are fully considered and any necessary remedial action taken. There is clear management oversight of records and analysis of any patterns or trends in relation to young people's behaviours and changing needs.

Separate health files contain all relevant information pertaining to how young people's complex health needs are met. The staff team also maintain comprehensive diary systems to ensure that all health related appointments are recorded and met. This provides young people with the health services and support they need in a timely manner. A qualified nurse also visits the home each week to oversee young people's health and medication needs. Health agencies work closely and proactively with staff and parents to ensure that the complex health needs of each young person are met at all times.

Young people engage positively with the staff team. The home is purpose built and has very good internal and external security measures in place. This prevents young people from placing themselves at risk of harm. There have been no reported incidents of young people going missing from this home. This reflects the staff team's skills and ability to ensure that young people receive high levels of supervision and support at all times.

Young people feel able to express their wishes and feelings with the staff team, and do so on a regular basis. Staff formally consult with young people each week: this is to determine their feelings and views on the care provided, activity planning, menu choices and any worries they may have. Staff consider all of the responses from the young people and ensure that they are acted upon. Staff members demonstrate a detailed awareness and understanding of the communication needs of each young person and promote their engagement with all aspects of their care.

The staff team works very closely with parents and carers. Young people moving into this home benefit from good multi-agency working and assessments of needs. Staff invite parents and carers to visit the home to consider all records, risk assessments and plans on a regular basis. Such positive engagement has led to improved contact for young people with family members and significant others.

The staff team also work very closely with education and transport providers. Their detailed awareness and understanding of the complex needs of each young person has led to improved attendance and engagement in education. For some young people, where this has been an area of concern previously, there have been noted improvements for them since moving to this home.

Young people feel well supported to take part in a wide range of stimulating and interesting social activities. Staff encourage them to identify things they would like to take part in and facilitate this. This includes trips out, swimming and using the soft play area within the home. The home also has a dedicated games room where young people can also do art. The young people's art is on prominent display throughout the home. This promotes a very homely environment and enables the young people to take pride in their achievements.

The Registered Manager and staff team have recently reintroduced a soft play room. The young people enjoy spending time in this room, with staff support. This promotes their social skills and enables them to play in a safe and welcoming environment. The outside areas of the home also include specialist play equipment including a swing, trampoline and bicycles. Young people learn how to interact with each other and enjoy appropriate physical activities through such activities. This promotes their physical and emotional health and well-being.

The Registered Manager has also introduced an independence room and programme for young people within the home. Young people learn how to make their own drinks and basic meals, with staff support. They also learn how to take personal responsibility for their own laundry and cleaning. This supports the young people to learn the skills necessary to make a successful transition to adult life.

The Statement of Purpose for the home has not been updated to reflect changes in the management and staffing structure. Monthly audits of case files now takes place to ensure all plans and risk assessments continue to meet the complex needs of

each young person: however, some of the risk assessments have not been updated within the specified timescales. These issues have not had an adverse impact on the young people.

The Registered Manager and staff team demonstrate a significant commitment to meeting the needs of the young people and improving the services they provide to them. Staff feel supported and valued in their roles. Engagement with parents and carers is seen as important in meeting the holistic needs of the young people. One young person stated, ' Staff are good at this home. I am happy with my bed, shower and toilet.' Another young person stated, ' I am happy in the home and I like it here.'

One requirement has been made, as a result of this inspection, to update the Statement of Purpose. One recommendation has also been made to improve practice through monitoring and improving the quality of the record keeping.

Information about this children's home

This local authority children's home provides care and accommodation for up to six children and young people who are diagnosed as being on the autistic spectrum and/or having learning disabilities.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
28/08/2014	Full	good
19/03/2014	Interim	satisfactory progress
27/09/2013	Full	adequate
06/12/2012	Interim	good progress

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
5 (2001)	keep under review and, where appropriate, revise the statement of purpose and notify Ofsted of any such revision within 28 days. (Regulation 5(a)(b))	27/02/2015

Recommendations

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

- ensure that there is a system in place to monitor the quality and adequacy of record keeping and take action when needed. (NMS 22.1)

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.