

Children's homes - interim inspection

Inspection date	11/02/2016
Unique reference number	SC400901
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home
Registered person	Break
Registered person address	Davison House, 1 Montague Road, SHERINGHAM, Norfolk, NR26 8WN

Responsible individual	Hilary Richards
Registered manager	Carol Augur
Inspector	Michael Mulvaney

Inspection date	11/02/2016
Previous inspection judgement	Good
Enforcement action since last inspection	None
This inspection	
The effectiveness of the home and the progress and experiences of children and young people since the most recent full inspection This home was judged Good at the full inspection. At this interim inspection, Ofsted judge that it has Declined in effectiveness. A review of recent notifications sent to Ofsted indicate that the manager and staff have not acted in line with the organisation's safeguarding policy and procedure. This shortfall, in one specific case, is because of a lapse in identifying the potential risk factors for young people. Consequently, safeguarding processes are not effective. This is significant and impacts on the overall effectiveness of the home, given the potential risk to this vulnerable group of young people. The manager and senior management in the home had recognised this oversight prior to the inspection and instigated the appropriate procedures subsequently. Observation of other young people's records show a positive approach to safeguarding. The senior management within the organisation are reflecting on what action they can take to prevent a further occurrence of this nature. Young people with a wide range of specific learning and physical disabilities receive adequate care whilst they live or receive short breaks from this service. The staff have a good relationship with the local special schools. The schools and the home routinely share information about the young people's day-to-day care needs. This is particularly important for this group of young people as some are non-verbal. This communication ensures that any issues which may have become apparent at school, are followed up in the home. This helps to ensure consistency of care for the young people. Staff engage in positive direct work using a range of communication tools. These techniques help the staff to understand the young people's views. Written and photographic records of this work identify the progress that young people are making. This enables staff to explore young people's wishes and feelings regarding during their stays. Responses show that young people feel happy and secure in this home. Staff and young people plan for opportunities that maximise fun and enjoyment. Activities include trips to parks, or going out as a group for dinner. Young people also enjoy cooking and playing with the extensive resources in the home. Photographs of these events, shared with their family and carers, show how much	

pleasure young people have during their time at this home. As a result, young people are gaining experiences and opportunities which they may not be able to achieve elsewhere.

Placing local authorities report that staff are able to meet the young people needs. Staff work diligently to achieve the required outcomes of placement plans. For example, staff have worked with foster carers to carefully implement a transition plan to move one young person permanently to their care. Other stakeholders including parents feel confident that the home is able to meet the complex needs of the young people. A parent commented that the service has been: 'A life-changer for their child and the family as a whole. The staff do whatever they can to make the short break successful. Part of our child's condition is anxiety around change. Staff do everything they can to keep them calm and help them to settle.'

Staff use careful and calm communications skills with young people who may be distressed. On occasion they use physical intervention. Trained staff use the de-escalation techniques prior to restraint. There have been five incidents of restraint since the previous inspection. These have been well recorded and staff spend time reflecting on how they may approach similar situations without needing to restrain. Negative conduct may see consequences such as missing out on an activity. Staff consistently use positive reinforcement to reward good behaviour.

The manager has met the recommendations set at the previous inspection. She has ensured that young people's risk assessments include information regarding the process to follow should a young person go missing from the home. The specific learning and physical disabilities of young people require the staff to constantly observe and monitor them. The manager is able to be flexible with staff deployment. As a result, if the young people are engaged in an activity extra staff ensure that the young people can participate to ensure safe care. Staff are acutely aware of the risks to young people should they go missing in the community. Recent training concerning the risks of sexual exploitation has been included in the updated risk assessments.

Staff receive good quality supervision which considers the young people's needs. Staff report that these meetings are supportive. Training includes a more suitable safeguarding for disabled children course. Staff have attended this and are attending refresher courses routinely. As a result, staff with suitable skills are working with young people.

Information about this children's home

This home is registered for up to six children and young people with emotional and/or behavioural difficulties, physical disabilities, and learning disabilities. The home provides two different services with the same building. Children and young people are provided with short breaks scheme at the weekend and school holidays. During school term, the home provides boarding placements to young people attending linked special schools.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
26/08/2015	Full	Good
10/02/2015	Interim	Improved effectiveness
11/12/2014	Full	Good
04/03/2014	Interim	Satisfactory Progress

What the inspection judgements mean

At the interim inspection 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*.

Requirement	Due date
12: The protection of children standard: In order to meet the protection of children standard, with particular regard to risk of harm, the registered provider must ensure: (2) (a) (i) that staff assess whether each child is at risk of harm, taking into account information in the child's relevant plans, and, if necessary, make arrangements to reduce the risk of any harm to the child; (iii) that staff have the skills to identify and act upon signs that a child is at risk of harm; (v) understand the roles and responsibilities in relation to protecting children that are assigned to them by the registered person; (vi) take effective action whenever there is a serious concern about a child's welfare; and (vii) are familiar with and act in accordance with the home's child protection policies; (b) that the home's day to day care is arranged and delivered so as to keep each child safe and to protect each child effectively from harm.	24/03/2016

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 focused on the effectiveness of the home and the progress and experiences of children and young people since the most recent full inspection.

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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