

Children's homes – Interim inspection

Inspection date	16/03/2017
Unique reference number	SC400901
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home
Registered provider	Break
Registered provider address	Schofield House, 1 Spar Road, Norwich NR6 6BX

Responsible individual	Hilary Richards
Registered manager	Carol Augur
Inspector	Debbie Young

Inspection date	16/03/2017
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 judges that it has improved in effectiveness. The manager has met the requirement that was made at the last inspection. The staff understand their roles and responsibilities in relation to protecting children. The staff have completed additional child protection training that is specific to children who have disabilities. The manager is proactive in seeking appropriate advice and support from professionals to keep children safe. The manager and staff share information appropriately. A social worker said: Communication is very good. I have developed good working relationships with the team and the manager. They always keep me informed. I will get an email. We will also chat and talk issues through and make a plan of what to do. The staff take effective action in response to concerns in order to promote the children's safety. The staff are well informed about safeguarding procedures and they are aware of the whistleblowing procedures. This ensures that the children's welfare is a priority. The staff use physical intervention as a last resort to protect the children. The staff make detailed records of the incidents, and the manager provides oversight of the incidents to ensure that they are justified and proportionate. The staff benefit from debriefing following incidents. The children's views are sought and recorded. This gives the staff the opportunity to reflect on their practice and gives the children the chance to raise any concerns and to reflect on their behaviour. Clear and comprehensive behaviour management plans reflect the individual needs of the children, the potential triggers and the preferred ways to manage the resulting behaviours. The plans guide the staff in caring safely for each child. The manager and staff communicate effectively with other agencies and with families and carers. The feedback from professionals and family members about the care provided and the communication that they receive is positive. The admissions process works well for children and their families. Good information	

sharing prior to admissions, along with opportunities for children to visit the home, contribute to smooth transitions. The admissions proceed at a pace that meets the individual child's needs. Consequently, children and their families feel supported and anxieties are reduced.

The staff support the children to engage with education. There are strong links with the local schools. An education professional said: 'The resource [the home] is invaluable. Working together means that we can manage to keep the children in their own home community with their families.' This provides the children with stability and consistency which enables them to progress. A social worker said:

He [child] is making progress and his behaviour has improved, certainly compared to how he used to be. He has his freedom. The staff have built really good relationships with him. It's quite clear that he enjoys his time there [the home].

The staff seek the children's views in one-to-one meetings and through the children's meetings. The staff support the children to make choices regarding their menus and activities. The children's individual needs are a priority.

The staff are committed to developing the children's interests and confidence. They take time to get to know the children; they genuinely care for them and want them to do well and be happy. The staff encourage the children to participate in the activities that they enjoy. The children visit the cinema, local parks and the local youth club. This helps them to develop their peer networks in the community.

The home environment is welcoming and thoughtfully arranged, with bright art work on the walls and symbols and pictures. This provides a bright, homely, accessible and safe environment for all of the children.

The children make good progress. Their individual care plans are clear, with specific emphasis on making progress in identified aspects of their development. There are rewards for achievements and progress that include certificates and stickers. The children develop their personal and social skills. One of the children has made good progress in reducing incidents of challenging behaviour and improving his self-care skills. A family member said:

They [staff] know him very well. Even though he is not the easiest child, they know what to expect and that he might get upset. They are in tune with him and deal with him so well. They are great.

The staff team provides nurturing and quality care to the children. This makes the children feel safe, comfortable and well cared for. The staff recognise when the children have had a difficult day at school or at home. There is consistency of care from staff who work together effectively to manage the needs of the children. The staff describe the home as a 'family'.

The external and internal review of the quality of care is effective and informative. This monitoring contributes effectively to improvements in practice and service provision.

Information about this children's home

This home is registered for up to six children who have emotional and/or behavioural difficulties and/or physical disabilities and/or learning disabilities. The home provides two different services in the same building. Children are provided with a short-break scheme at the weekends and during school holidays. During term-time, the home provides boarding placements to children attending linked special schools.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
21/04/2016	Full	Good
11/02/2016	Interim	Declined in effectiveness
26/08/2015	Full	Good
10/02/2015	Interim	Improved effectiveness

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'.

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. Whenever 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 whom 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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