

Children's homes – Interim inspection

Inspection date	22/02/2017
Unique reference number	SC422464
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home
Registered provider	Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council
Registered person address	Church Street, Barnsley, South Yorkshire S70 2TA
Responsible individual	Mr Jonathan Banwell
Registered manager	Diane Wharton
Inspector	Jennifer Fenlon

Inspection date	22/02/2017
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 sustained effectiveness. Children and young people continue to enjoy coming to the short-break service. They are forming friendships that are flourishing and they participate in various activities. One young person said: 'I love going for drives out.' Another child said: 'I like coming to sleep at X.' Staff are now providing children and young people with a photographic overview of their experiences and friendships. Children and young people who attend short breaks receive excellent care that is thoroughly planned by staff. Staff are acutely perceptive, and the children and young people's complex care needs are attentively met. One young person enjoys having her hair being blow-dried, and another young person's feeding regime has improved. The impact of this is that the young person is now not reliant on gastrostomy feeds. Another child is benefiting from continual staff interaction and observation to prevent him from making himself sick. Children and young people are helped to develop their skills and abilities through the support of a committed staff team. Examples of their accomplishments are making toast and preparing a meal for peers with limited input from the staff. A carer said: 'It is a brilliant service and they cannot do enough for X. He loves coming.' Children and young people continue to benefit from a thorough admission process. This enables their complex needs to be understood and managed upon visits to the home. As children and young people's stays at the home are assessed and planned effectively, they experience safe and enjoyable stays. Children and young people are safe at the home during their short breaks because of the high levels of supervision. This means that the potential risk of missing from home incidents, and child sexual exploitation of this vulnerable group, are minimised. Physical restraint is rarely used; however, the recording of such interventions does not meet with regulatory requirements. Staff support children and young people with the transition from the service. When their time within the service is ending, they are supported to have a positive,	

celebrated ending. In addition, when transition plans are shared, the staff team works with agencies to ensure that they have the required information so that children and young people continue to have their needs met.

The manager and staff team have worked well to develop partnership working. This has included using the knowledge and experience of other professionals to deliver specialist training to staff. This helps them to support the complex needs of a child using the service. Staff maintain a strong working relationship with parents and carers and other professionals. This ensures that there is a consistent approach and shared learning to meet the needs of the children and young people.

The manager has fully met the recommendations from the last inspection. She has identified further areas for development within the home, and is actively implementing these. The manager has also strengthened measures for quality assurance, including regular supervision for staff. However, further oversight is required within case records to ensure that staff keep them up to date and that they are signed and dated by the author of each entry.

Some areas of improvement are identified. Children and young people's records should be reviewed by the dates agreed, and the independent visitor's report should be sent to Ofsted in a timely manner. Notifications should be sent without delay' to the regulator.

Information about this children's home

This local authority children's home provides short breaks for up to eight children and young people who have learning disabilities and physical disabilities, and some of whom may have challenging behaviours.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
18/10/2016	Full	Good
08/03/2016	Interim	Sustained effectiveness
21/07/2015	Full	Good
12/02/2015	Interim	Improved effectiveness

What does the children's home need to do to improve?

Statutory requirements

This section sets out the actions which must be taken so that the registered person meets the Care Standards Act 2000, Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015 and the 'Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards'. The registered person must comply within the given timescales.

Requirements	Due date
44: Independent person: visits and reports The independent person must produce a report, which sets out, in particular, the independent person's opinion as to whether children are safeguarded effectively and the conduct of the home promotes children's well-being. (Regulation 44 (4)(a)(b))	30/04/2017
35: Behaviour management policies and records Within five days of the use of the measure, the registered person or the authorised person adds to the record confirmation that they have spoken to the child about the measure. (Regulation 35 (3) (C))	31/03/2017

Recommendations

To improve the quality and standards of care further, the service should take account of the following recommendations:

- Make best use of information from independent monitoring to ensure continuous improvement. ('Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards', page 55, paragraph 10.24)

Specifically, ensure that the independent visitor's report is sent to HMCI before the end of the month that follows the month in which the visit took place.

- Staff should be familiar with the home's policies on record-keeping and understand the importance of careful, objective, and clear recording. Staff should record information on individual children in a non-stigmatising way that distinguishes between fact, opinion and third party information. Information about the child must always be recorded in a way that will be helpful to the child. ('Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards', page 62, paragraph 14.4)

This is with particular reference to ensuring that the children and young people's documents are reviewed in line with any agreed review date, in order to evidence progress. In addition, the completed risk assessments would benefit from improved detailed recording, to facilitate a review of the effectiveness of measures.

- Regulations 35–39 detail the records that must be kept in children's homes. Case records must be kept up to date and signed and dated by the author of each entry. ('Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards', page 62, paragraph 14.3)
- The registered person should have a system in place so that all serious events are notified, within 24 hours, to the appropriate people. ('Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards', page 63, paragraph 14.13)

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 that 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 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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