

SC465257

Registered provider: Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This is a short-breaks service for up to eight children with learning disabilities, physical disabilities and associated healthcare needs. The service is managed by a healthcare foundation trust. It is also registered with the Care Quality Commission because staff carry out some healthcare tasks.

The home is led by a registered manager.

Inspection dates: 12 and 13 December 2023

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people, taking into account	good
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How well children and young people are helped and protected	good
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The effectiveness of leaders and managers	good
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The children's home provides effective services that meet the requirements for good.

Date of last inspection: 21 February 2023

Overall judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
21/02/2023	Full	Good
29/06/2021	Full	Good
17/09/2019	Full	Good
09/07/2018	Full	Good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

Children like coming to this home. They say they are happy here. One parent said, 'he loves going there, I couldn't wish for a better place for my son.'

Children's care plans are detailed and specific to each child. They address all aspects of the child's individual care needs. A new child friendly plan has been created. This gives staff clear guidance to look after the children well.

Children take part in a wide variety of activities. They have opportunities for new experiences, learning new skills and having fun. Children can make choices as to what to take part in. Children's stays are planned to ensure they know other children staying. This helps them to make friends.

Children's health care needs are managed well. Staff are trained to manage more complex needs when necessary. There is access to specialist health professionals if required. Children are encouraged to eat healthily and take part in activities involving exercise. The large trampoline in the garden is a favourite choice for some children. Therefore, children are helped to remain healthy.

Staff work closely with schools and education providers. This includes attending meetings. Communication between carers and teachers is good. This is helped by staff taking some children to their school.

Children are listened to. They have an opportunity to make decisions and express their wishes and feelings. A room for computer gaming has been created following a child's request. Staff ensure they understand the way in which each child communicates with others. They know the children well and adapt the way they work to meet the child's needs.

How well children and young people are helped and protected: good

Children's behaviour that is difficult to manage is responded to well by staff. This is aided by how well staff know each child. Staff respond to children in ways that have been identified to best help. This ensures that incidents do not escalate and children remain safe.

Children's assessments of risk are clear and detailed. They are reviewed regularly. They provide good guidance to staff on how to work with children to reduce the level or impact of risk. However, on one occasion a shift was not planned well and the child's risk assessment not directly followed. As a result, another child was hurt.

The manager ensures that significant incidents and safeguarding concerns are taken seriously. They are responded to well and promptly. This includes involving safeguarding professionals appropriately. Staff have a good understanding of the additional vulnerabilities of disabled children. Therefore, they can identify concerns and report them appropriately.

Staff are aware of how self-harm might present for children with specific needs and disabilities. There are good plans that identify actions to respond to children who may harm themselves when distressed. There is also access to specialist services to help and protect children when required.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The manager has ensured that all the requirements from the last inspection have been met.

The manager provides a thorough induction process for all new staff. This is supported by a comprehensive initial and ongoing training programme. Competency assessments are used to determine when staff are ready to undertake specific tasks. This includes the administration of medicines. As a result, staff have the skills required to safely care for children with additional needs.

The manager ensures that staff receive one-to-one supervision in-line with the provider's policy. However, a target of two sessions every three months can leave gaps. The service manager is considering a change to a target of monthly supervision of staff.

The manager uses a range of quality assurance processes. This includes thorough auditing. This gives the manager good oversight of the home. This then informs actions for the home's development plan.

The manager's review of records has not always identified gaps. The quality of recording is inconsistent. Recording tools in place are not always used. This means there are missed opportunities for feedback and learning.

The manager is supported by a dedicated and experienced service manager. She works from the home weekly and knows the staff and children well. There is also good support from an experienced responsible individual.

Staff say they love working with the children at this home.

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

Statutory requirements

This section sets out the actions that the registered person(s) must take to meet 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(s) must comply within the given timescales.

Requirement	Due date
The protection of children standard is that children are protected from harm and enabled to keep themselves safe. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure— 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. (Regulation 12 (1)(2)(a)(i)) This specifically refers to staff consistently working to a child's risk assessment and planning work accordingly.	20 February 2024

Recommendations

- The registered person should ensure that staff are familiar with the home's policies on record keeping and understanding the importance of careful, objective and clear recording. ('Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards', page 62, paragraph 14.4)

Information about this inspection

Inspectors have looked closely at the experiences and progress of children and young people, using the 'Social care common inspection framework'. This inspection was carried out under the Care Standards Act 2000 to assess the effectiveness of the service, how it meets the core functions of the service as set out in legislation, 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'.

Children's home details

Unique reference number: SC465257

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider address: Sudborough House, St. Marys Hospital, 77 London Road, KETTERING, Northamptonshire, NN15 7PW

Responsible individual: Sharon Robson

Registered manager: Georgina Murray

Inspector

Shaun Caplis, Social Care Inspector

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