

Inspection report for children's home

---

<b>Unique reference number</b>	SC059842
<b>Inspection date</b>	13 October 2009
<b>Inspector</b>	Monica Hargreaves
<b>Type of Inspection</b>	Random

---

<b>Date of last inspection</b>	12 May 2009
--------------------------------	-------------

---

© Crown copyright 2009

Website: [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)

This document may be reproduced in whole or in part for non-commercial educational purposes, provided that the information quoted is reproduced without adaptation and the source and date of publication are stated.

You can obtain copies of The Children Act 2004, Every Child Matters and The National Minimum Standards for Children's Services from: The Stationery Office (TSO) PO Box 29, St Cripins, Duke Street, Norwich, NR3 1GN. Tel: 0870 600 5522. Online ordering: [www.tso.co.uk/bookshop](http://www.tso.co.uk/bookshop)

## 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.

This report details the main strengths and any areas for improvement identified during the inspection. The judgements included in the report are made in relation to the outcome for children set out in the Children Act 2004 and relevant National Minimum Standards for the establishment.

## The inspection judgements and what they mean

Outstanding:	this aspect of the provision is of exceptionally high quality
Good:	this aspect of the provision is strong
Satisfactory:	this aspect of the provision is sound
Inadequate:	this aspect of the provision is not good enough

## **Service information**

### **Brief description of the service**

This local authority home provides a short breaks service for children and young people who are between the ages of eight and 17 years and who have a permanent and substantial disability.

It is a purpose built bungalow, with facilities that are appropriate to meet the needs of the young people who use the service. It has four large single bedrooms and two bathrooms with adaptations. A tracking system enables the safe movement of the young people from bedroom to bathroom. There is a lounge, sensory room, separate utility room, dining room and kitchen. The kitchen is designed with a rise and fall worktop, which allows for wheelchair users.

To the rear of the property is an enclosed secure garden with play equipment and a sensory area. There is car parking to the front of the home. The train station, shops, amenities and park are all within walking distance.

Attached to the bungalow is a one bedroom flat, which can provide emergency accommodation. This element of the provision is for a maximum period of 48 hours and when in use has its own dedicated staff team.

### **Summary**

This unannounced interim inspection was undertaken to assess how well the home is working to keep young people safe. Key standards in Staying Safe were considered. Due to the limited nature of the inspection, the overall judgement remains as at the last inspection.

The home continues to provide an excellent standard of care. Young people are looked after by staff who have a very good understanding of their needs and who work well together to ensure that young people are protected and their welfare is promoted. There are highly effective systems in place to identify and minimise potential risks and the environment is kept safe.

The overall quality rating is outstanding.

This is an overview of what the inspector found during the inspection.

### **Improvements since the last inspection**

There were no actions or recommendations made at the last inspection.

### **Helping children to be healthy**

The provision is not judged.

### **Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe**

The provision is outstanding.

The service has highly effective systems and excellent care practices, which ensure that young people are cared for safely when they stay at the home.

Detailed assessments enable staff to identify issues of possible risk for each young person and to put in place appropriate support and risk management plans. These plans address issues such as bullying, unauthorised absence and behaviour. The implementation of these plans, together with good staffing levels, enables staff to work consistently with young people, to

supervise them appropriately and to keep them safe. There is evidence that bullying is not an issue in the home and that no young person has gone missing from the service since it opened.

Staff have a positive view of the young people they work with. They promote positive behaviour and support young people well. Individual positive handling plans are put in place for specific young people, to ensure that care is consistent and that difficult or challenging situations are managed appropriately and in line with the young person's assessed needs. Staff are trained to respond positively to challenging behaviour. This includes training in the use of physical restraints, although physical intervention is only ever used as a last resort and at the lowest level, to protect young people and staff from harm. There has been only one such incident since the last inspection, which indicates that the strategies that staff use work well and protect young people.

There are sound systems to make sure that young people are protected from abuse. Staff attend specific training in safeguarding children and young people with disabilities. There is a clear procedure for reporting concerns and staff have a very good understanding of their responsibilities.

Staff value and promote the dignity and privacy of the young people they look after. They ensure that information is kept confidential and they deliver personal care in a way that is sensitive to the needs of young people and respects their personal dignity.

The home has a sound complaints procedure, which underpins the excellent care practice of staff in this area of their work. They develop a thorough knowledge of all the young people in their care, so that they understand how young people who do not use speech, make their views and dissatisfactions known. This knowledge enables staff to assess if young people are unhappy with any aspect of their care and to take appropriate action. The service works closely with parents, so that they are able to raise issues and advocate on behalf of their children. Young people and their parents also have access to an independent advocate. There have been few complaints in the service and there is clear evidence that issues are responded to promptly.

Young people benefit from being looked after in an environment that is kept safe. There is an appropriate schedule for the maintenance of all equipment and installations and risk assessments and good working practices, ensure that the home is kept free from potential hazards. Staff are trained in evacuation procedures, there is an emergency evacuation plan which identifies the specific needs of every young person and there are regular fire drills. These systems ensure that staff know how to support young people safely from the building in an emergency.

Before they take up their post, staff who are appointed to work at the home are thoroughly vetted and assessed as safe to work with vulnerable young people. Visitors are checked and the home itself is kept appropriately secure, to prevent unauthorised individuals gaining access to young people. These effective systems protect young people in the home.

### **Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do**

The provision is not judged.

### **Helping children make a positive contribution**

The provision is not judged.

## Achieving economic wellbeing

The provision is not judged.

## Organisation

The organisation is not judged.

## What must be done to secure future improvement?

### Statutory requirements

This section sets out the actions, which must be taken so that the registered person meets the Care Standards Act 2000, The Childrens Homes Regulations 2001 and the National Minimum Standards. The Registered Provider must comply with the given timescales.

Standard	Action	Due date
----------	--------	----------

## Recommendations

There are no recommendations.