

Inspection report for children's home

---

<b>Unique reference number</b>	SC034210
<b>Inspection date</b>	8 January 2010
<b>Inspector</b>	Michael McCleave
<b>Type of Inspection</b>	Random

---

<b>Date of last inspection</b>	21 July 2009
--------------------------------	--------------

---

© Crown copyright 2010

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 children's resource centre is run by a local authority and provides respite services to children with disabilities. The service can be offered for up to four children at any given time. The bedrooms for the children are all single occupancy. There are two bedrooms located on the ground floor and four further bedrooms on the second floor. There is a large enclosed garden to one side of the centre that has outdoor play equipment. There is a separate annexe to the building that has a sensory room and meeting facilities. This building does not currently enable children with a wheelchair to access these facilities.

### **Summary**

This interim inspection looked at the progress the setting has made with the recommendations made at the last inspection. These related to staff training and developmental opportunities. The centre has yet to achieve, 80% of staff having completed the National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) Level 3 in The Care Of Children and Young People. Being healthy, enjoying and achieving, positive contribution and economic well being were not looked at during this inspection. The children who attend this centre for short breaks, stay in single bedrooms and are able to have private time alone, albeit with staff at a discreet distance for safety monitoring purposes.

The staff team are experienced in the work with children who have learning disabilities. They have a clear understanding of their responsibilities to safeguard the children in their care.

This is a well managed service and there are robust procedures in place to ensure that the safeguarding of children is promoted.

The overall quality rating is good.

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

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

The manager was asked to ensure that all staff were appropriately trained at National Vocational Qualification Level 3, in the Caring of Children and Young People and to provide staff with the opportunity to develop their professional skills using information technology. The manager has taken steps to address these matters.

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

The provision is not judged.

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

The provision is good.

Children are able to have private time alone and for their privacy to be respected. However, because of the nature of some of their disabilities, staff are required to be close at hand to monitor the safety and well being of the children. Staff are fully aware of their responsibilities to ensure that all information is confidentially managed at the resource centre.

There are robust systems in place to safeguard the children's welfare during their short stay. Staff have detailed knowledge of each child and of their abilities. This enables them to identify

if a child is unhappy or if they have any concerns. They use their skills to determine if a complaint should be initiated. There are very good relationships with parents who are made fully aware of the complaints procedure when their child is offered a place at the centre. Staff are provided with training in child protection awareness and this is updated annually through an on-line system. There are good communication links with social workers, who ensure that staff at the centre, are informed if any concerns of a safeguarding nature are identified within the family setting. Some staff stated, 'we know our children and if one is out of sorts, or unhappy, we instantly know if something is wrong'. Although bullying is not a major issue at the centre, staff are clearly alert to the risk of a child targeting another with aggressive behaviour. Strategies are implemented to reduce this form of behaviour from taking place. The high staffing levels and effective working practices, help to reduce the risk of bullying. This is good practice. Although staff are trained in restraint techniques, the most common method is the use of gentle, but firm hand holds to defuse any confrontational situations. All incidents are recorded in the appropriate log. However, some entries do not indicate monitoring by a manager.

The resource centre has good-quality coded security locks on all entrance doors to the building. These codes are changed regularly. There are risk assessments in place to ensure that the centre is safe for the children. The garden area is secure which promotes the safety of the children when they are at play. Records confirm that regular fire drills are carried out and fire fighting equipment is regularly checked by qualified personnel.

All staff appointments are subject to rigorous checks. These must be completed to the satisfaction of the manager before any applicant commences work at the resource centre. These include Criminal Record Bureau checks and verbal confirmation with referees about each reference. Staff records held at the centre, give a clear indication of the robust selection procedures.

### **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 good.

Staff are supported to undertake the National Vocational Qualification at Level 3 in the Caring of Children and Young People. A minimum ratio of 80% of staff having this qualification has yet to be achieved. Appropriate facilities have been made available for staff to complete training using an on-line system.

## 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

To improve the quality and standards of care further the registered person should take account of the following recommendation(s):

- ensure 80% of care staff have completed an NVQ Level 3 In the Caring of Children and Young People (NMS 29.5)
- ensure that the manager regularly monitors the restraint record, and signs against each entry to confirm that monitoring has taken place. (NMS 22.11)