

Inspection report for children's home

---

<b>Unique reference number</b>	SC059203
<b>Inspection date</b>	21 August 2009
<b>Inspector</b>	Leonard Hird
<b>Type of Inspection</b>	Key

---

<b>Date of last inspection</b>	9 December 2008
--------------------------------	-----------------

---

© 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 children's home is located near to the centre of a rural town. It provides a short break service at weekends and for identified periods during school holidays, for up to six children from the age of six to 17 years who have a learning disability. It is a service provided by the local authority.

The home is situated in its own grounds a short distance from the centre of the town. Accommodation is arranged on two floors with access by the main staircase with no available lift. Children are provided with their own bedrooms on the first floor and there is an enclosed garden and play area.

### Summary

This was an unannounced, full inspection. An assessment of the recommendations made at last inspection was undertaken and these had been fully addressed. The inspection assessed all of the key national minimum standards (NMS) in all of the outcome areas. The home is providing good levels of care and support to children with learning disability. The home is well-managed and organised to help keep children safe and secure. The home provides a good service for children in raising awareness of equality and diversity in both the home and the community. Children's privacy and dignity is well respected by members of staff. The overall experiences and outcomes for children who regularly stay at the home are good.

The overall quality rating is good.

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

### Improvements since the last inspection

Recommendations raised at the last inspection have been met. The Registered Persons were asked at the last inspection to keep an appropriate induction record of all new agency staff employed at the home and this is now happening. Similarly the home is ensuring that when sanctions have been imposed on a child the child can now make a comment about how they feel about the sanction in the sanction book.

### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children have a good choice of healthy and nutritious meals. The home's menu accommodates the individual dietary requirements of the children. All of the children indicated that they enjoyed the meals prepared at the home. A child commented that, 'I am always given a choice of what I want to eat whilst I'm at the home or on activities', another comment was, 'I have been encouraged to try fruit smoothies and cereal bars which I found I really like'.

Records are maintained showing visits to the doctors, dentists, opticians and other health specialists are occurring as required by the children. Children have their own personal health plan in place on their file, however, the primary health care needs of the children remains the responsibility of the parents at all times.

Parental permissions are in place for the administration of emergency first aid and the administration of medication. Members of staff receive regular recorded training in first aid,

the safe handling of medication and specialist health needs. A child commented that, 'they make me comfortable and give me any medicine required and agreed with by my parents'. Members of staff are fully supporting the children in meeting their health needs.

The administration, secure storage and disposal of medication is well monitored and managed by members of staff, ensuring that the children's health is not compromised. Clear policies, procedures, risk assessments and guidance are in place for members of staff to deal with any health or dietary related issue which may occur in the home. The well-being, health and dietary needs of the children are being positively promoted at the home.

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

The provision is good.

The privacy and dignity of children living at home is fully respected by members of staff. The local authority provides comprehensive policies and procedures for dealing with confidential information and its storage and these are being followed by members of staff.

A robust countering bullying policy and procedure is in place at the home. Members of staff have received training in how to deal with bullying situations and will take prompt action to stop it occurring. All of the staff team receive appropriate levels of training in safeguarding and behaviour management. The behaviour management system being used at the home very rarely involves the use of restraint holds. Members of staff are fully aware of the relevant policy, procedures, guidance and reporting procedures relating to these very important areas of practice.

All staff, before working at the home, are subject to a robust recruitment and selection process undertaken by the local authority. Agency staff prior to commencing work at the home are also subject to similar checks and these are verified by the home. This process is in accordance with the relevant regulations for people working with children.

There are comprehensive systems in place to record, monitor and prevent risks to health and safety at the home. Fire and safety equipment is regularly checked by members of the staff team and outside agencies. Regular recorded fire drills are held in the home and children with the assistance of the trained staff know what to do in case of a fire. All visitors to the home are required to provide evidence of their identity and to sign the visitors book. There are good systems in place to ensure the safety and well-being of children at the home.

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

The provision is good.

Good practice at the home ensures that each child receives individualised support. Care plans are reflective of the individual needs of child and are based on a comprehensive initial assessment which is linked to the on going care planning and reviewing process occurring at the home.

All the members of the staff team have a good knowledge of each child's needs. There was evidence of very positive interactions occurring between members of staff and individual children, and the group as a whole. Children were observed to be comfortable in approaching any member of staff for support or help. Children are offered varied opportunities to be involved in identifying what kind of individual support they need and how this should be delivered. This enables the children to feel valued and listened to.

Each child has a statement of special educational need, setting out their educational needs and how these are to be met. The home's staff liaise closely with individual children's schools and positively encourage children to attend school and persevere with their studies.

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

The provision is good.

All of the children have a comprehensive placement plan which details how the home will address their respite and specialist care needs. Members of staff prior to a placement commencing ensure there are several planned visits to the home for the child to get to know both the staff team as well as the other children.

There are good arrangements in place for the reviewing and recording of the care and progress made by the children. Where appropriate, members of staff support the children to contribute to these reviews. There are excellent consultation and communication systems in place between the home and the children's families, enabling staff and parents to be kept fully informed regarding the care and support needs of the children. A parent commented, 'I get a report every time they go out, and they let you know where they have been, what they have eaten and how much, they also keep in touch with the social worker and the school'.

There are numerous opportunities for the children at the home to be listened to on how the home is run. These are occurring through the home's system of planned children's meetings as well as the informal meetings with staff which occur daily. Members of staff are fully committed both to listening to and involving the children in making appropriate decisions about their life at the home.

### **Achieving economic wellbeing**

The provision is good.

The home is clean, well furnished, satisfactorily equipped and pleasingly decorated throughout and provides a safe environment for children to live in. All of the children have their own and where ever possible personalised bedroom. Each bedroom has a single bed, seating area and storage space. There are good levels of bathing, showering and toileting facilities available in the home for use by children. Staff have separate sleeping-in and bathing facilities. There is a very strong commitment by members of staff and children to maintaining this pleasant and homely environment by treating the facilities with respect.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The promotion of equality and diversity is good. Members of staff have received training in the promotion of equality and diversity as part of their professional development programme. Staff have a good understanding of the needs of the children living in this respite care environment and ensure the children are treated as individuals. The work of the staff team is supported by the policies and procedures of the local authority in the promotion of equality and diversity.

The regularly reviewed children's guide and statement of purpose clearly states how the home operates and is managed. The information in these documents is presented in a way that can be easily understood by children and their families. The acting manager assisted by a well

motivated and competent staff team is ensuring that the home is well organised, managed and run in line with the statement of purpose.

Members of staff are provided with good opportunities for training in caring for children and young people. Many of the staff have achieved the National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) at level 3 Caring for Children and Young People award or higher. Members of staff undertake regular core training in areas, such as first aid, behaviour management and fire safety. Members of staff spoken with confirmed that they were receiving regular training and recorded supervision which provides them with support and professional guidance.

Staffing levels at the home are good and are meeting the identified needs of the children. When agency staff are used to cover long term staff absences the home tries wherever possible to use the same member of staff to maintain continuity of staffing to reduce the potential of disruption to the children.

There are a number of different quality assurance systems in place at the home, including a monthly unannounced Regulation 33 monitoring visit by the local authority's visiting officer. The manager also produces a report that includes issues raised by both children and staff. When actions or recommendations have been highlighted in either of these reports they have been acted upon.

Children's individual case files are securely stored and are arranged in a manner which makes them easily accessible to members of staff. Those files examined were being well monitored, maintained and managed.

## 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.