

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	1 December 2009
Inspector	Merryl Wahogo
Type of Inspection	Random

Date of last inspection	6 July 2009
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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 home is a short break and respite unit which provides day care and residential short breaks for children and young people with disabilities or additional needs. There are 50 children and young people who currently use this service. The home is registered to accommodate a maximum of eight children between the age of five and 18 years at any one time. Children and young people using the service are carefully matched according to age, friendships and ability and are placed in groups accordingly. The various groups use the service at different times. Overnight breaks are offered from Monday to Thursday during term time and additionally at weekends during school holidays.

The home is purpose-built and is situated in a quiet residential area with an enclosed garden and play area.

Summary

This was the interim unannounced inspection. It covers the staying safe and economic wellbeing outcome areas as well as recommendations from the key inspection. The staying safe outcome area remains outstanding and improvements to the environment mean that the economic wellbeing of young people using the home, is now also outstanding.

The overall quality rating is outstanding.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

The manager has reviewed and updated the risk assessment for the outdoor trampoline, in line with the most recent guidance.

The local authority has improved the process for refurbishment and repairs by funding the provision of a handy man for five hours a week.

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.

Staff continue to respect the privacy and dignity of young people. They keep confidential records securely and behave professionally around the young people at all times.

There have been no complaints since the last inspection, but several parents and young people have sent warmly expressed thank you cards.

There have been no instances of bullying or absconding since the last inspection. This is in part due to good behaviour management and in part to good supervision. Staff are well aware that safeguarding the young people involves getting to know them and how to fulfil their needs in great detail. The home provides a sound induction in this area and the local authority backs this up with regular safeguarding training. As a result, staff rarely use either sanctions or physical interventions and when they do they are used entirely appropriately.

The local authority has completed the construction of sloping access between the lounge and the back garden, across the width of the lounge space. This means that access is now entirely safe, both through and around the lounge doors. The manager has ensured that all risk assessments, including that for the trampoline in the garden, have been reviewed and updated.

Staff record all incidents or accidents well, including comments by the manager about the implications for behaviour management or risk assessments. Equally, staff are thorough about conducting and recording all necessary fire safety tests.

The home has not recruited any new staff since the last inspection.

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 outstanding.

The local authority is now providing the services of a handy man for five hours a week. This means that the home has access to prompt minor repair services. It also means that repainting can be done fairly continuously. As a result of this and the replacement of some furniture, the home now looks increasingly smart.

As usual, there is a new display in the dining area at each visit. Night staff are currently completing a beautiful nativity scene. Equally, in one chill-out area, a group of volunteers has created a wonderful mural chosen by some of the young people and the manager. In addition, there is a new sensory room with a wide variety of equipment, which young people clearly love and use enthusiastically.

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
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Recommendations

There are no recommendations.