

Inspection report for children's home

---

<b>Unique reference number</b>	SC064412
<b>Inspection date</b>	26 August 2010
<b>Inspector</b>	John Chivers
<b>Type of Inspection</b>	Key

---

<b>Date of last inspection</b>	21 January 2010
--------------------------------	-----------------

---

© 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**

The home provides accommodation for six children and young people with learning disabilities between the ages of 8 years and 17 years. The home is a domestic sized house that has been converted for its purpose. The registered provider is also the manager. The home is situated within walking distance of the town centre and has easy access to public transport. The home has the necessary equipment to support young people with a physical disability. There are six large single rooms, a lounge/dining room, a sensory room and a kitchen. The home provides a Statement of Purpose and a children's guide with information about the facilities and services provided. Prospective children and their representatives are welcome to view the premises and discuss their needs with the manager. There is a fee range which depends on individual children's needs.

### **Summary**

The inspection was a full inspection and unannounced. All of the key standards in the sections being healthy, staying safe, enjoying and achieving, positive contribution, economic well-being and organisation were assessed. There were no actions or recommendations to follow up from the last inspection and no actions and only one recommendation is made as a result of this inspection.

The home provides a caring and supportive service. The home is organised and managed to a good standard and affords an equally good standard of care and support to the resident young people, having full regard for equality and diversity issues in all aspects of its operation.

One young person was in the home during the visit and engaged in the inspection.

The overall quality rating is good.

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

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

There were no actions or recommendations as a result of the last inspection.

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

The provision is good.

Young people enjoy a balanced and healthy diet and special diets are catered for in the event. Young people learn how to shop for provisions and assist in meal preparations under staff supervision as part of their independence training. Staff are trained in food hygiene and the home's catering arrangements meet the standards set by the local environmental health department. Provisions are safely and correctly stored and refrigerator and freezer temperatures are taken and recorded.

Staff are aware of young people's health and medical histories and encourage them to take part in a range of activities which assists their physical development, co-ordination and helps keep them physically fit, in addition to receiving enjoyment from participation. Young people retain the services of their own doctor, although a local general practice is available to the home in emergencies. Signed parental consent for medical and emergency treatment is held.

Young people receive safe and diligent medical treatment from staff trained in medication administration and first aid and the local community nurse provides advice to the home as appropriate. Medication administered is clearly recorded and medication is kept secure in a locked cabinet. Medication stock is audited on a monthly basis and is returned to parents following young people's respite placements.

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

The provision is good.

Staff are aware of the importance of confidentiality and keep all confidential records secure in locked cabinets in a locked office. There is a telephone available for young peoples use and space is available for them to receive visitors in private. Toilet and bathing facilities afford privacy. Young people have their personal care needs met in a caring and sensitive way and staff treat young people with dignity and respect their privacy.

Young people indicate no worries or concerns about the home or the standard of care they receive. Young people and their parents have unrestricted access to the home's complaints procedures and staff assist those less able young people in filing a complaint should issues arise. Staff receive training in the home's complaints procedure at induction and this is reinforced periodically at team meetings. The home's complaints book is available and shows that no complaints have been received.

Young people are protected from harm and abuse by a diligent staff team who are trained in child protection and safeguarding. Young people are closely supervised and staff monitor their movements and activities closely. Staff are aware of the home's child protection reporting procedures. The manager said there are no current child protection or safeguarding issues at the home.

Young people stay in a bullying free environment where staff are alert to such issues and immediately challenge any conduct in this area. No bullying or intimidating behaviour among the young people is evident. There are clear policies and procedures regarding young people who are absent without authority, although no unauthorised absences have occurred.

Young people's behaviour is well managed by staff trained in behaviour management and who maintain control via sound working relationships and caring approach and understanding individual young people's needs. There is good interaction and engagement between staff and young people who respond positively to staff inputs in this area. The home's sanctions and restraint books are available, although no restraint or sanctions have been used; staff preferring to use distraction and disapproval rather than any formal measures.

Young people stay in a safe and closely monitored environment and the home takes active steps to keep young people, staff and visitors safe from the inherent risks of fire and other potential safety hazards.

The home's recruitment and vetting procedures are robust and sound and staff files hold all required information including two written references and checks via the Criminal Records Bureau at enhanced level. The home's recruitment and vetting procedures helps to ensure that only suitable staff are appointed to look after the young people.

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

The provision is good.

Young people are closely supported by staff who are aware of their individual needs and attend to their personal and intimate care in a caring and sensitive way. Young people feel safe and secure in a nurturing environment and while no formal key worker system is in place, this does not detract from the good standard of care young people receive. Young people benefit from having placement and care plans in place of which staff are aware and each young person has a written risk assessment, which is monitored and reviewed as appropriate. Young people also have access to advocates and young people's help and advice contact details are held.

Young people attend local special schools and copies of their personal education plans are held by the home and of which staff are familiar. Young people benefit from staff who are interested in promoting their education and learning via a range of activities while they are receiving respite care. There is sound communication and liaison between the home's staff and schools that young people attend. Each young person has a home-school diary where information is exchanged regarding issues and progress. Staff encourage young people to complete homework as appropriate and the home has full regard for young people's education and learning.

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

The provision is good.

Young people benefit from having detailed placement plans and a simplified version of the plan is also held and which staff explain to young people. The placement plans are monitored and reviewed on a regular bases. The home's manager writes the appropriate section of young people's education reviews, and staff or the manager attend and contribute to the meetings. Young people may also attend and make a contribution to the proceedings. Any contact young people have with their parents or significant others is clearly recorded on contact sheets.

The home's admissions criteria and process helps to ensure that only suitable young people are admitted for respite care. The home contributes to young people's transition plans which are prepared by individual schools that young people attend. Young people learn and benefit from independence and life skills training which is undertaken as part of the respite care programme for appropriate young people. Young people are consulted via a range of communication forums in which their views, opinions and choices are acted upon. Young people also have communication books to aid them with any consultation process.

## **Achieving economic wellbeing**

The provision is good.

The home does not prepare young people for leaving care; however it does contribute to school transition plans and young people benefit from independence training, which the home sets as part of the respite care service.

Parents supply young people with spending money, clothing and personal requisites such as toiletries.

Young people stay in safe, homely and comfortable accommodation which is well maintained. Communal areas are decorated and furnished to a good standard and a play room and sensory room is available. Young people are able to personalise their bedrooms during their period of

respite care and some bedrooms have en suite facilities. Bathing and toilet facilities are of a good standard, equipped with hoists and rails and afford good privacy. The garden area is safe and secured by fencing. Standards of cleanliness and hygiene are good throughout the home and no safety hazards are evident in the areas of the premises accessed.

## Organisation

The organisation is good.

The promotion of equality and diversity is good and staff have full regard for a range of differences in their service provision. The home is managed to a good standard and affords an equally good standard of care and support to the young people.

Young people and their parents receive sufficient information about the home via the Statement of Purpose and young people's guide. The Statement of Purpose accurately describes the service and facilities provided by the home.

Young people receive a good standard of care and support from a well supervised, trained and experienced staff team who are appraised annually. Staff are supportive of the home's management and ethos and implement equal opportunities and equality and diversity policies and practices in all areas of provision. There is sound communication between the staff team. They work in a committed and competent manner to meet the needs of the young people and enable the home to achieve its aims and objectives.

There is sound internal monitoring of the home's operation, which helps to ensure consistency and continued good practice. Young people's personal files are organised and maintained to a good standard with information being well documented and easily accessible. The home does not have a development plan for the current year. The home has a current insurance liability certificate which complies with the services responsibilities as an employer.

## 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 Children's 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 the home has a current annual development plan. (NMS 33.5)