

Inspection report for Children's Home

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Inspector	Mary Timms
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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 outcomes for children set out in the Children Act 2004 and the relevant National Minimum Standards for the service.

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 service provides residential respite arrangements for families of children with a learning disability between the ages of eight and 17 years. Nine children may be cared for at any one time which may include one child with a physical disability. Placements are agreed and planned according to identified levels of need. The home is located on the outskirts of a large town within easy travelling distance of community resources. The facilities provide both shared and individual areas for children. There is a lounge, a quiet room, a sensory room, a dining room and individual bedrooms for children. There are adequate bathrooms, some with the necessary adaptations to support children with mobility restrictions. Outside play areas are available with play equipment provided.

Summary

The overall quality rating is outstanding.

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

This was an unannounced interim inspection. The visit was planned to review care arrangements against the staying safe outcome area. There were no required actions or recommendations set at the previous inspection to follow up on this visit.

The findings from this interim inspection are underpinned by the evidence from the full inspection undertaken in November 2010. The overall service judgement is unchanged and will be reviewed at the next full inspection. The arrangements to keep young people safe continue to be outstanding. The safety and general wellbeing of the vulnerable children using this service are prioritised in all areas of care. The management team are committed to the future development of the service and implement highly effective monitoring systems which ensure the quality of care that children receive.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable as no required actions or recommendations set on the last full 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.

Children continue to be protected by thorough and effective safeguarding arrangements. Robust recruitment procedures are operated when new staff are employed to work in the home. As a result children are cared for by staff who have undergone detailed background checks. Staff attend initial and refresher training which supports their ability to keep children safe. Training includes, fire safety, behaviour management, safeguarding disabled children and manual handling.

Staff understand their role and responsibilities within arrangements to keep children safe. Detailed placement plans and risk assessments clearly set out individual care arrangements in relation to safeguarding and behaviour management. Comments from staff include 'we always talk about behaviour management as a team. If we see that an agreed strategy is not working, we discuss this and develop new plans'. Staff link with schools and parents to ensure a consistent approach to behaviour and communication is taken.

The management team have a close oversight of care arrangements and further development of the service is seen as important. For example, recent improvements have been introduced to the way any noted marks or bruises on a child are dealt with. As a result staff fully understand the actions they should take, to keep very accurate records and to notify identified individuals immediately.

Children and families are made aware of the home's complaints procedures when they are first linked with the service. Staff understand that some children cannot verbalise a complaint and monitor them closely for changes in behaviour which may mean that they have a concern or are upset. Children's right to privacy is prioritised through the planning and delivery of personal care.

Children are cared for in a safe and well-maintained environment. Required checks of fire safety equipment are undertaken. A range of health and safety monitoring checks are undertaken on a regular basis. These effectively ensure that issues requiring attention are identified promptly and are acted upon. Twice daily security checks of what is a large building ensure that windows and doors are appropriately secured. As a result, vulnerable children are unable to leave the premises without staff supervision.

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.