

Inspection report for Children's Home

Unique reference number	SC030713
Inspection date	08/02/2011
Inspector	John Chivers
Type of inspection	Random

Date of last inspection	03/08/2010
--------------------------------	------------

© Crown copyright 2011

Website: 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 Crispins, Duke Street, Norwich, NR3 1GN. Tel: 0870 600 5522. Online ordering: 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 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 children's home is a resource centre for children with disabilities and their families, which is owned and managed by the local district council. One of the services offered at the centre is residential respite care for children with a disability. It is this aspect of the centre's activity that is regulated under the Children's Homes Regulations 2001. The centre is registered for five young people between eight and 17 years who have a learning and/or physical disability; many of the children also present challenging behaviour. Other services offered include day care, after school care and outreach services.

The home is a two storey detached house. It has its own minibus to enable good transport links with neighbouring towns and local facilities. There are five bedrooms on the first floor and several communal areas including a lounge, dining area, sensory room and large garden to the rear of the property. There is a lift to provide access to the ground and first floor. All local amenities are within easy reach of the home. The home has a guide for parents and also its own children's guide. In addition, a DVD that enables the young people to see all the facilities the centre provides has been developed. The home welcomes prospective service users and/or their representatives to view the premises and discuss their needs with the manager.

Summary

The overall quality rating is outstanding.

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

The inspection was an interim inspection and unannounced. All of the key standards in the section staying safe of the national minimum standards for children's home's were assessed on this occasion. There were no actions or recommendations set as a result of the last inspection and no actions or recommendations are made as a result of this inspection. The home continues to be managed to a high professional standard and affords an equally high professional standard of respite care and support to the resident young people. Building extension work is currently in progress at the home. Four young people were receiving respite care at the time of the inspection.

Improvements since the last inspection

There were no areas for improvement scheduled as a result of the last 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.

Staff are aware of the importance of confidentiality and receive training in this area at induction. Confidential records are securely held in locked cabinets within a locked office and a telephone is available for young people's use. Young people are treated with dignity and staff respect their privacy. There is adequate space within the home where young people can receive appropriate visitors in private. Toilet and bathing facilities afford good privacy and young people have their personal and intimate care needs met in a caring and sensitive way.

Young people and their parents have unrestricted access to the home's complaints procedure and staff assist young people in making complaints if necessary. Staff receive training in complaints at induction and the complaints procedure is reinforced to staff periodically at team meetings. The home's complaints book shows that no complaints have been received by the home, nor has Ofsted received any complaints about the service.

Young people are protected from harm and abuse by staff that are appropriately trained in child protection and safeguarding. Staff are alert to safeguarding issues and have full regard for young people's protection and welfare. Young people are closely supervised and learn about aspects of personal safety via their individual school's curriculum which is reinforced by staff during their periods of respite care at the home. Safeguarding is monitored and reviewed and detailed in individual care plans and risk assessments. The risk assessments and care plans are prepared to a high standard. There are no current or ongoing child protection or safeguarding issues in the home.

Young people live in a 'bullying free' environment where staff are alert to such issues and are prompt to challenge such conduct in the event. The homely and caring atmosphere at the home coupled with the close supervision arrangements helps to reduce the likelihood of bullying occurring. There is a detailed missing persons policy and procedure; however, there have been no unauthorised absences from the home.

Young people's behaviour is very well managed by staff that are appropriately trained in behaviour management and who forge sound working relationships with young people during their periods of respite care. Staff are pro-active at interacting and engaging young people who respond to staff inputs in a positive way. Young people benefit from having behavioural risk assessments and behaviour management plans that are monitored and reviewed on a regular basis. Sanctions and restraint are clearly recorded and are necessary and appropriate in the circumstances described in

the records. All of the current young people are within the home's remit in terms of behaviour management and control.

The home takes positive steps to keep young people, staff and visitors safe from the inherent risks of fire and other potential safety hazards. Standards of cleanliness and hygiene are high throughout the home and no safety hazards are evident in the areas of the premises accessed.

Staff recruitment procedures are robust 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 employed to look after the young people.

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.