

Inspection report for Children's Home

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Inspector	Michael McCleave
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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 children's resource centre is run by a local authority and provides respite services to children with disabilities. The service can be offered for up to four children at any given time. The bedrooms for the children are all single occupancy. There are two bedrooms located on the ground floor and four further bedrooms on the second floor. There is a large enclosed garden to one side of the centre that has outdoor play equipment. There is a separate annexe to the building that has a sensory room and meeting facilities. This building does not currently enable children with a wheelchair to access these facilities. A new satellite building has been established to increase the services provided for children with learning disabilities and autism.

Summary

The overall quality rating is good.

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

This unannounced, interim inspection assessed the key national minimum standards associated with staying safe and the progress in meeting the recommendation made at the last inspection. The outcome areas for being healthy, enjoying and achieving, positive contribution, economic wellbeing and organisation were not looked at during this inspection.

The children are cared for in a safe environment by staff who have a clear awareness of their safeguarding responsibilities. Communication with the children is effective through a variety of communication aids and this enables the staff to identify any issues of concern. The safety of the children is enhanced with the robust recruitment procedures in place. This ensures that staff are only appointed following a rigorous selection process.

Improvements since the last inspection

The acting manager was asked to amend the Statement of Purpose so as to include the correct information about the management of the home. Appropriate steps have been taken to ensure the Statement of Purpose has been amended.

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is not judged.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Staff are aware of the children's right to privacy. Although staff maintain close monitoring due to the disabilities of the children, they treat them with sensitivity and ensure their dignity is maintained. When children use the bathing or toilet facilities, staff will remain outside but close enough to provide assistance if required.

All information about the children is kept secure in the office. Confidentiality is an integral part of induction training. This is covered in the Children's Workforce Development Council training for new staff and in the National Vocational Qualification at Level 3 in Caring for Children and Young People which all staff are expected to achieve.

An imaginative and well designed complaints system is in place that takes account of the communication abilities of the children. Child friendly pictures and symbols are used to enable staff to determine if any concerns should be addressed as a complaint. Parents are provided with appropriate information to enable them to make a complaint if required.

The home takes child protection seriously and good links have been established with the Local Safeguarding Children Board. Staff are very clear about their responsibilities to maintain a safe environment for the children. Training in child protection is mandatory for all staff, and procedures are readily available for staff to consult about actions to be taken if concerns are raised or an allegation is made of abuse. These systems ensure that the children are protected.

Although there is a high staff ratio due to the challenges presented by the children, staff are nevertheless aware that bullying can take place. They ensure that the children are closely supervised and act promptly if any risk of aggressive behaviour is likely.

The very good staffing levels along with vigilant monitoring by staff ensures that the likelihood of a child going missing is unlikely. Staff are nevertheless, aware of the procedures to follow. Staff work with the children to develop acceptable behaviour through positive encouragement and praise. Although staff are trained in behaviour and restraint techniques, these are rarely used. This is good practice.

Staff are aware of their responsibilities to maintain a safe home. All visitors are supervised by staff. The building is well maintained with no obvious hazards identified.

The home has a robust recruitment and selection procedure that requires all applicants to undergo a rigorous process to determine the suitability of potential staff. These ensure that staff can only be appointed after full checks have been carried out. These measures positively promote the safeguarding of the children.

Outcomes for ensuring the children are cared for safely are good; demonstrating that the home is well managed to ensure the safety and well-being of 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.