

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC060327
Inspector	Maire Atherton
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Registered manager	Keith Darren Manning
Date of last inspection	02/07/2014

Inspection date	13/02/2015
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Previous inspection	good
Enforcement action since last inspection	none

This inspection

This home was judged good at the last full inspection. At this interim inspection Ofsted judge that it has **sustained effectiveness**.

Children and young people benefit from short breaks that support them to have fun, develop skills and interact socially with others in a safe, well-maintained environment. A parent said 'I totally trust them, I have no worries about him being here'. Children and young people may have day or overnight visits. A number of young adults are engaged on a specific learning programme to develop their socialisation and independence skills in the community.

The planning of admissions is a strength of the service. A parent spoke very warmly of the home visit that was made to develop a detailed support plan and health care plan for her child. She said 'They have listened to his needs and done everything they could to make him safe. They are very on the ball with medical needs and the emotional and caring side is there so I can relax'. Plans for individual children and young people provide a clear outline of their needs and vulnerabilities and are well supported by a range of risk assessments. The personal emergency evacuation plans do not contain sufficient detail about the level and type of assistance children may require in the event of a fire alarm sounding, particularly at night.

Staff support children and young people to make meaningful choices and are attuned to their different methods of communication. Children express their satisfaction through broad smiles and laughter as they engage in their chosen activities, the ball pool a particular favourite on the evening of this visit. A parent commented on the value of the centre's use of social media, 'it enables me to see my son's experiences and share with friends very easily'. Meal times are relaxed and sociable as staff tailor the level of support to meet individual need.

Staff understand challenging behaviour as communication and respond to it as such. Staff are trained in a recognised behaviour management method. There is very little use of physical intervention or sanctions, as staff successfully interpret behaviour or

distract and divert children and young people.

There is an open culture in the home and the manager welcomes parents' views. A parent said 'They're the kind of people you can phone for advice, they've got time for you, make you feel important and that they really care'. Complaints are well managed to the complainants' satisfaction with actions implemented where necessary, for example ensuring consistent staffing to meet the specific needs of one young person.

Registered nurses lead and train the staff team so that children and young people's health care needs are well-understood and met. Where required staff recording is detailed, providing a clear account of seizures for example and the action taken by staff. Systems for the storage and administration of medication are robust and ensure that children and young people get the right medication at the right time. Staff are alert to the changing needs of young people and highlight these. However there is not in every case a timely response, for example to ensure that a desirable aid is available at the time of the next visit .

The manager knows the strengths of the home and has a development plan to further improve the service. This includes increasing the number of nights the centre is open and additional areas of staff training or example. The monitoring of the service by the manager and the independent visitor is sound. These systems are used to good effect to identify shortfalls and take appropriate action.

There were two recommendations made in the last inspection report, both have been met. New recording formats have been introduced that guide staff on the information to be included when writing accounts of the children's stay. The choices that have been made by children and young people are recorded and night-time checks are more detailed.

Information about this children's home

The service provides short breaks for up to five young people with learning difficulties, sensory impairment or physical disabilities. It is provided by a local registered charity.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
02/07/2014	Full	good
25/02/2014	Interim	good progress
21/08/2013	Full	good
08/01/2013	Interim	good progress

What does the children's home need to do to improve further?

Recommendations

To improve the quality and standards of care further the service should take account of the following recommendation(s):

- ensure that the emergency escape plan for individual children details the level and type of assistance required in their personal emergency evacuation plans (NMS 10.9)
- develop a system to highlight emerging needs and the action required to ensure that each child has suitable aids, adaptations and other suitable equipment (NMS 10.7)

What inspection judgements mean

At the interim inspections we make a judgement on whether the home has improved in effectiveness, sustained effectiveness, or declined in effectiveness since the previous full inspection. This is in line with the *Inspection of children's homes: framework for inspection*.

Information 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 to assess the effectiveness of the service and to consider how well it complies with the relevant regulations and meets the national minimum standards.

The report details the main strengths, any areas for improvement, including any breaches of regulation, and any failure to meet national minimum standards. The judgements included in the report are made against the framework of inspection for children's homes.