

Inspection report for children's home

---

<b>Unique reference number</b>	SC406505
<b>Inspector</b>	Monica Hargreaves
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Interim
<b>Provision subtype</b>	Children's home

---

<b>Registered person</b>	Leeds City Council
<b>Registered person address</b>	Leeds City Council 3rd Floor, St George House, Great George Street LEEDS LS1 3DL
<b>Responsible individual</b>	Stephen Banks Walker
<b>Registered manager</b>	Claire Wright
<b>Date of last inspection</b>	13/11/2014

<b>Inspection date</b>	06/03/2015
Previous inspection	outstanding
Enforcement action since last inspection	none

## This inspection

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

There were no requirements or recommendations made at the last inspection. However, the home has a very good track record of responding promptly to any issue identified during inspections in order to ensure that the service continues to improve for the benefit of young people.

Young people receive a very high standard of care from a committed and enthusiastic team of staff and they enjoy their short breaks in this service. This is confirmed by professionals and families who report that young people enjoy staying in the home. One parent commented '(Name) loves coming and she would certainly make it known if she didn't.'

Care staff have an excellent knowledge of the young people they look after and demonstrate a strong commitment to ensuring that young people's lives are enhanced by their short break stays. They make sure that young people have access to a wide range of activities that they enjoy. These include trips out to local places of interest such as the railway museum, local parks and visits to the coast. Young people also take part in activities in the home such as arts and crafts, baking, playing on the trampoline and in the ball pool. Many young people are confident with computers and they enjoy using them to play games and listen to music. Parents value the activities that are provided for their children. One parent said, 'There always seems to be things going on - in one break she went on two trips - amazing!' Their involvement in all the types of activities offered by the service broadens young people experiences, promotes their confidence and supports their general development. Since the last inspection, young people have been supported to take part in 'Take over Day' a national initiative aimed at encouraging young people to develop their skills by learning about the work of staff and trying out their role. A number of young people chose different roles, such as a health and safety officer, chef, domestic assistant and care worker. Staff helped them to prepare for

their chosen roles, took photographs of their day and helped young people to write up their experiences. Young people really enjoyed this activity and said that they wanted to do it again.

Young people enjoy their short breaks in the warm and nurturing environment that is provided by the home. Staff value young people as individuals and are committed to ensuring that their wishes and feelings are central to the care they receive. Staff are well trained to understand how different young people make their views known and staff communicate very effectively with young people using their preferred means of communication. Staff arrange regular meetings with groups of young people and they also have individual key work sessions with them. These arrangements enable young people to contribute their views to all aspects of the running of the home and help staff to understand if young people are happy with their care. Young people choose menus and activities and currently they are all helping to choose the decoration and floor coverings for bedrooms and communal areas. One young person has made a contribution to the development of the safeguarding protocol. This meaningful consultation with young people contributes to their sense of achievement and supports their independence skills.

Safeguarding has a high priority and consequently young people are cared for very safely. Short breaks are carefully planned to ensure that young people are appropriately placed together. This contributes to their protection. Each young person has a range of risk assessments that ensure that their vulnerabilities are identified and strategies put in place to eliminate or minimise risk. Staff supervise young appropriately at all times. This ensures that young people are not able to leave the home without the knowledge of staff. Consequently, there have been no incidents of young people going missing from the home. As part of their consultation sessions, staff ask young people if they feel safe and young people confirm that they do. Parents and professionals report that they are confident that young people are safe when they stay in the home.

Staff are trained to manage challenging behaviour. This includes the use of appropriate physical interventions. However, these are very rarely needed as staff work very effectively to manage young people's behaviour without the need for restraint. This contributes to young people's sense of security when they stay in the home.

Young people are supported to develop their confidence and skills when they stay in the home. Staff undertake focussed work with young people on issues identified in their plans. They communicate well with parents which ensures that there is consistency. This helps young people make real progress. Staff are enthusiastic about the way young people develop. One staff member said, '(Name) has really matured. He engages much more now.' The contribution that the home makes to the overall progress of young people is recognised and greatly valued by families and professionals alike. One professional said, 'The home has been really good at encouraging changes that then follow through at home. This has really helped

(name)' and a parent reported, 'Staff always manage to work with (name) to achieve a positive outcome.'

Staff support young people and families very well as young people start or end their short breaks stays in the service. Admissions are very carefully planned with a clear strategy for introducing young people at a pace that is appropriate for them and their families. Young people stop using this service when they reach 18. Staff work with the transitions team and families to try to ensure that an appropriate follow on placement is identified at an early stage. The families of some young people have kept in touch for some time after their children have stopped using the service. This indicates that they and their children have formed positive relationships with staff and value the support they were given during their stays.

Parents retain responsibility for the education of their children. However, staff contribute to education reviews and have a good knowledge of the targets young people are working to achieve. Staff work closely with schools and support young people to attend every day. Parents also retain responsibility for their child's overall health needs. Staff are trained to meet the specific and complex health needs of some the young people they look after. For example, they have training in the management of epilepsy and gastrostomy tube feeding. They work closely with health professionals and families to ensure that information about young people's health is kept up to date. They ensure that young people have a healthy lifestyle when they stay in the home and they manage and administer medication safely. Consequently, young people's good health is promoted very well when they stay in the home.

The home is managed very effectively. The manager regularly monitors the quality of care given to young people and has very good oversight of their well-being when they stay in the home. The manager's monitoring reports are thorough and give a very clear overview of how young people are looked after and kept safe when they stay in the home. Reports identify the consultation that has taken place with young people, parents and professionals and show how this is used to drive improvements. Copies of the reports are sent to Ofsted within the required timescales.

## Information about this children's home

The home is run by the local authority. It is registered to provide accommodation and care for up to 12 children who have learning disabilities, physical disabilities and sensory impairment. Children usually stay at the home for short-breaks spread across the year for up to a maximum total of 35 days per year.

## Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
13/11/2014	Full	outstanding
03/02/2014	Interim	good progress
30/05/2013	Full	good
29/11/2012	Interim	good progress

## **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.