

Inspection report for children's home

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| Unique reference number | SC034210 |
| Inspector | Michele Hargan |
| Type of inspection | Interim |
| Provision subtype | Children's home |

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| Registered manager | Deborah Jane Sandles |
| Date of last inspection | 22/09/2014 |

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| Inspection date | 03/03/2015 |
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| Previous inspection | adequate |
| Enforcement action since last inspection | None |

This inspection

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

The requirement and six recommendations raised at the time of the previous inspection have been met in full. The Registered Manager ensures Ofsted surveys are sent to parents, children and young people, social workers and other professionals; this is in response to a recommendation made at the time of the previous inspection. This means that rights of children, young people and their parents to comment on the service they receive are upheld.

Senior staff are responsible for monitoring all aspects of the care children and young people receive on a monthly basis as part of in house quality assurance systems. As a result a bulletin identifying areas for improvement are addressed and areas of good practice are identified that can be further developed. This promotes practice tailored to the individual needs of children and young people and increases the accountability of staff.

Staff have meaningfully responded to a recommendation about ensuring information in children and young people's files is recorded in a way that is helpful to them. Staff described a tool now being used to progress this as 'an audio aid enabling children's understanding.....as it brings picture exchange communication symbols (PECS) and narrative into an audio format.' This approach respects the rights of children with communication difficulties to be informed about the care they receive and promotes their increased involvement.

Newly recruited staff undertaking the Children's Workforce Development Council's induction standards have their progress monitored by senior staff within supervision sessions. As a result staffs' readiness to practice or any areas for further development can be more readily assessed. This meets a previous recommendation and promotes safer care for children and young people.

The Registered Manager responds to possible allegations seriously no matter how seemingly insignificant. This is in consultation with local authority designated officer as necessary. Information obtained as a result of any investigation is held appropriately within the required records. Concerns and complaints are also now comprehensively responded to and logged in full. A senior member of staff said, 'We want to demonstrate transparency in our responses.' This approach means lessons from complaints can be effectively learnt improving practice. This also meets a previous recommendation aimed at promoting the safety and wellbeing of children and young people.

Staff proactively discourage inappropriate behaviour including bullying and tailor their support to manage children and young people's behaviour in partnership with parents. This promotes a consistent approach in responding to children's anxious behaviour that can arise at times of transition. This significantly reduces the need to use sanctions as a means of managing children and young people's behaviour and also meets a previous recommendation.

The Registered Manager proactively canvasses the views of parents about the services the home offers. Parents commented in response, 'he is in safe and caring hands.' Also about a transition process leading to admission, 'the process was incredibly thorough but very sympathetic which gave us a lot of confidence going forward.' Inviting parents reflections and comments promotes effective joint working, builds trust and increases confidence in staffs abilities at times of transition.

Staff provide children and young people with opportunities to take part in meaningful experiences that enrich their lives. Staff said, 'young people have been caving, visiting museums, on picnics and swimming.' This promotes children and young people's increased participation in community activities adds to their sense of enjoyment and increases feelings of belonging.

Information about this children's home

This children's resource unit is operated by a local authority. It provides short breaks for up to nine children with learning disabilities and complex health care needs and for children who have autism. The service is provided from two sites.

Recent inspection history

| Inspection date | Inspection type | Inspection judgement |
|-----------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| 22/09/2014 | Full | adequate |
| 17/03/2014 | Interim | good progress |
| 19/11/2013 | Full | good |
| 19/02/2013 | 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.