

Inspection report for children's home

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<b>Unique reference number</b>	SC059203
<b>Inspector</b>	Colin Imrie
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Interim
<b>Provision subtype</b>	Children's home

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<b>Registered person</b>	Northumberland County Council
<b>Registered person address</b>	Northumberland County Council County Hall Morpeth Northumberland NE61 2EF
<b>Responsible individual</b>	Daljit Lally
<b>Registered manager</b>	Susan Elizabeth Ghulam
<b>Date of last inspection</b>	14/03/2014

<b>Inspection date</b>	27/03/2015
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Previous inspection	good progress
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**.

The manager and staff continue to provide an outstanding service to the children and young people who attend for short breaks. There were no requirements or recommendations from the previous inspection. The children and young people achieve excellent outcomes and staff care of them is exceptional. All the children and young people are kept very safe. The manager continues to provide strong and inspiring leadership and both the manager and staff are very dedicated to their work and continue to improve the service.

Children and young people look forward to their time at the short break service and were observed to arrive excited and keen to enjoy the activities and their time at the home. They understand that they will get to choose an outside trip or activity on every stay and they are able to choose what they eat to a greater extent. Staff ensure that meals and snacks are healthy and sensible but children and young people do get an opportunity to eat out at some of the more popular takeaways. Children and young people clearly enjoyed choosing to have a Sunday roast dinner and staff were happy to arrange this. Children and young people each have a goal plan that is agreed between them, their parents and carers and the staff at the home. These goals are really important in achieving a greater degree of independence. One young person was making good progress with road safety skills, another on dressing skills and others on eating skills. The home has staff who are trained in forest schools and they are able to take young people outdoors to enjoy learning forest skills.

Children and young people often achieve tasks at the short break home that they do not do at home. Some of them are more independent around using the toilet, getting ready for bed and with food preparation while at the home. Staff suggest that they have high expectations for all children and young people and that they have the time to practice and reinforce the learning of new skills. Staff frequently

take extra time to support a child or young person to do something for themselves rather than just do it for them. The care offered by staff to children and young people is exceptionally good but also imaginative and innovative.

Staff work well with other professionals and particularly well with parents and carers who are always part of the planning and reviewing process. Staff are flexible in the packages of care they provide. When one young person's mother was unwell they were able to provide additional care to support the mother.

The staff are able to combine a very gentle nurturing approach with proactive and resourceful planning to ensure children and young people benefit from their limited time in the home. Children and young people are kept busy and engaged without being rushed. Although the home has all the usual electronic entertainments in the house these are used sparingly with a preference for getting outside and doing activities that provide experiential learning.

Staff consistently say how happy they are working at the home. A number of staff have said it is the best place they have ever worked. They are clearly enthusiastic and very committed and this is reflected in their work.

The children and young people are kept very safe. No child or young person has gone missing because staff supervise them well throughout their time at the home. Also because of the excellent supervision by staff there is no bullying and there have been no child protection concerns. Again, because of the staff's consistently good care and supervision of the children and young people there is very little challenging behaviour. No restraints have been used, no sanctions have been used and no complaints have been made by anyone. All activities in the home and outside are well risk assessed and staff take great care to think ahead and give health and safety a high priority. Many of the children and young people have complex health needs so that any trips out involve considerable planning. Prior to going out on activities the planning is meticulous with a bag packed with medication, emergency medication, contact details and other important items. This allows children and young people to be able to go on a wide range of activities in safety. The home is maintained to a high standard and the dining room is currently being refurbished as planned.

The manager constantly strives for a better service. She has introduced a new goal planning and recording system which clearly identifies appropriate goals and then breaks these down into smaller manageable tasks. This allows children and young people to achieve lots of success, gives staff really clear guidance about the task and also clearly evidences progress. This system has clearly improved the service and the children and young people's experience because they have targets that are really individualised. As well as having these key individual goals, children and young people are encouraged to make progress in all other areas of life and staff clearly make the most of all situations. The manager monitors the home well and the external monitoring is also good. Staff are offered regular training and supervision

by the manager and this covers all the required areas with an emphasis on disability, medication and health needs training.

There are no requirements or recommendation arising from this inspection

## Information about this children's home

This children's home provides short breaks for six children who have a learning disability. The home is operated by the local authority.

## Recent inspection history

<b>Inspection date</b>	<b>Inspection type</b>	<b>Inspection judgement</b>
14/03/2014	Interim	good progress
18/11/2013	Full	outstanding
11/02/2013	Interim	good progress
23/07/2012	Full	good

## **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.