

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC030713
Inspector	James Harmon
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Registered person	Wokingham Borough Council
Registered person address	Wokingham District Council PO Box 154 WOKINGHAM Berkshire RG40 1WN
Responsible individual	Christine Buckman
Registered manager	David James Green
Date of last inspection	30/12/2014

Inspection date	24/03/2015
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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 **sustained effectiveness**.

There were no requirements or recommendations made at the last inspection. The registered manager continues to creatively develop the service. A new social work aspect of the short breaks service, 'with a goal to create a multi-disciplinary team that can deliver support to prevent crisis situations and make life ordinary for young people' is being established as an extension to the existing additional services.

The registered manager undertook health and safety improvements to the accommodation for young people, including the purchase of new cupboards and hoists in the bedrooms. To assist the children and young people that have difficulty accessing the service due to transportation issues, the service has obtained a mini people carrier. The mini bus can be driven by any member of staff with a valid driving licence and requires no further training. Parents will be able to arrange collection and drop off times with the staff, ensuring children young people have continuous access to the service.

To promote staff development the registered manager has reviewed the appraisal process for staff which now encourages them to provide their own analysis of their ability to care for children and young people and identify for themselves areas of professional development.

The independent visits and reports for the service are conducted by more than one independent visitor. To improve the level of consistency among the different independent visitors and ensure an evaluation of how the service improves outcomes for children and young people, the registered manager has revised the current report format in light of the new regulations in force from 1 April 2015.

Children and young people continue to be safe and well cared for while staying at the short break service. The service continues to maintain positive working

relationships with parents and professionals who speak highly of the service. A parent emailed the registered manager to express their 'extreme gratitude and thanks to the staff for the support and the great impact the service has had on their child, which has made life easier.'

Information about this children's home

This children's home is a resource centre for children with disabilities and their families and is owned and managed by the local district council. One of the services offered at the centre is residential short break care for children with a disability. It is this aspect of the centre's activity that is regulated under the Children's Homes Regulations 2001. The centre is registered for five young people aged between eight and 17 years who have a learning and/or physical disability; many of the children also present challenging behaviour. Other services offered include day care, after school care, outreach services and a domiciliary care service registered with the Care Quality Commission.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
30/12/2014	Full	outstanding
18/02/2014	Interim	good progress
11/09/2013	Full	outstanding
11/02/2013	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.