

Children's homes - interim inspection

Inspection date	24/03/2016
Unique reference number	SC059203
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home
Registered person	Northumberland County Council
Registered person address	County Hall, MORPETH Northumberland NE61 2EF

Responsible individual	John Young
Registered manager	Susan Ghulam
Inspector	Debbie White

Inspection date	24/03/2016
Previous inspection judgement	Outstanding
Enforcement action since last inspection	None
This inspection	
The effectiveness of the home and the progress and experiences of children and young people since the most recent full inspection	
<p>This home was judged Outstanding at the full inspection. At this interim inspection Ofsted judge that it has Improved effectiveness.</p> <p>Young people continue to make very good progress as a direct result of attending the home for their short-breaks. Their outcomes are excellent. All young people enjoy their stays and parental feedback about the home is extremely positive. This home provides very high quality care and support that undoubtedly enhances young people's lives and experiences. Comments from parents include, 'I feel completely at ease that my son is well cared for and is safe and that his well-being and development are paramount when in short-break care.' Another parent said, 'The home is the best thing, my child loves it. She looks forward to going and we can relax while she is away.'</p> <p>Relationships with staff are inspiring and actively contribute to young people's achievements. Consultation is effective and meaningful. There is a wide range of child-friendly communication aids that ensure all young people can express their views and wishes. This promotes good equality and diversity for young people with a disability.</p> <p>The children's guide has been updated as a direct result of suggestions and ideas from young people. The guide is colourful, child-friendly and informative. This is a very good example of consultation and inclusion. Recorded keyworker sessions also show young people are listened to and valued.</p> <p>Young people are safe and staff see their safety as a priority. Staff have a very good knowledge of each young person's needs and potential risks, which fully promotes their welfare and well-being. A parent said, 'The staff are very competent, caring and fun. This is a fantastic service run by fantastic staff, I can't think of any way to improve it.'</p> <p>The home have progressed by meeting a previous requirement to improve the independent visitor's reports. The reports better demonstrate young people are safeguarded and their welfare promoted. This additional independent scrutiny protects young people. The registered manager's monitoring is also robust and drives improvement. Development plans that include the views of young people</p>	

and their parents, show leaders and managers are consistently progressive.

The home has further improved by reviewing young people's written residential plans. These better link to placement review outcomes to ensure each young person's care and support reflects the aims of their short-breaks care. This careful and thoughtful planning has resulted in young people having clear goals and targets that they are meeting. This is especially apparent in young people developing a range of independence skills, which is a strength.

Healthy living is an integral part of the support offered. Young people are currently learning about healthy diets and how to reduce their sugar consumption. As part of the young people's weekly shopping trip, they are learning to use a mobile telephone application to check hidden sugars in food. This innovative thinking teaches young people to think about what they are eating and healthy options.

Activities continue to be a strength. Young people enjoy a wide range of experiences that significantly boosts their self-confidence and self-esteem. A parent said, 'My child always looks forward to going and always talks about the things they have done over the weekend.'

Leadership and management is meticulous and the registered manager leads a committed, motivated staff team who focus on improving young people's lives. Staff feel valued and supported. They receive the training they need to meet the needs of the young people, and go over and above to ensure young people have the best experiences during their short-breaks. A parent said, 'The service is brilliant, we couldn't wish for better care.'

There are no new requirements or recommendations arising from this inspection.

Information about this children's home

This children's home provides short-breaks care for children with a disability. It is operated by a private provider.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
09/10/2015	Full	Outstanding
27/03/2015	Interim	improved effectiveness
31/01/2015	Full	Outstanding
14/03/2014	Interim	Good Progress

What the inspection judgements mean

At the interim inspection 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

Inspectors have looked closely at the experiences and progress of children and young people living in the children's home. Inspectors considered the quality of work and the difference adults make to the lives of children and young people. They read case files, watched how professional staff work with children, young people and each other and discussed the effectiveness of help and care given to children and young people. Wherever possible, they talked to children, young people and their families. In addition the inspectors have tried to understand what the children's home knows about how well it is performing, how well it is doing and what difference it is making for the children and young people who it is trying to help, protect and look after.

This inspection focused on the effectiveness of the home and the progress and experiences of children and young people since the most recent full inspection.

This 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 Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015 and the *Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards*.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the guidance *raising concerns and making complaints about Ofsted*, which is available from Ofsted's website: www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted. If you would like Ofsted to send you a copy of the guidance, please telephone 0300123 4234, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, workbased learning and skills training, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It inspects services for looked after children and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 4234, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

You may reuse this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, visit www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence, write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk.

This publication is available at www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted.

Interested in our work? You can subscribe to our monthly newsletter for more information and updates: <http://eepurl.com/iTrDn>.

Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 1231
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted

© Crown copyright 2016