

SC033152

Registered provider: North Lincolnshire Council

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home provides short breaks for children and young people, irrespective of gender, aged between five and 18 years who have a learning disability. This includes those with additional complex health needs and/or autistic spectrum disorder.

The registered manager has been in place since 2007.

Inspection dates: 17 to 18 April 2018

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people, taking into account	good
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How well children and young people are helped and protected	good
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The effectiveness of leaders and managers	good
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The children's home provides effective services that meet the requirements for good.

Date of last inspection: 10 October 2017

Overall judgement at last inspection: outstanding

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
10/10/2017	Full	Outstanding
26/01/2017	Full	Outstanding
26/01/2017	Full	Outstanding
19/07/2016	Interim	Sustained effectiveness

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

The children and young people who have short breaks in this home receive a very good standard of care to meet their complex health and behavioural needs. The staff team is highly committed and provides personalised care which ensures that children and young people are safe, happy and comfortable.

The children and young people, including those who cannot communicate verbally, are well supported to actively participate in decisions about their day-to-day lives. Staff use a variety of communication methods to ascertain their needs and wishes and enable them to make choices. For example, one young person was able to communicate, through the use of his communication system, that he wished to lie down on his bed, and staff acted upon his wishes.

There are well-developed partnerships between the staff and the parents and carers of the children and young people. Parents are confident about leaving their children in the care of the staff team, and value the open and supportive response that they receive from staff.

Children and young people who are new to the service receive thoroughly planned introductions, with a number of visits. This minimises any stress that may be felt by children and young people, and families feel more confident.

Other agencies who support the children and young people speak highly of the service. This includes health staff, who regularly visit the home and provide training to staff, helping them to better understand the complex health procedures that are involved for some children and young people.

Effective communication with school staff ensures that there is coherent practice across both provisions. This ensures that children and young people receive consistent care which meets their needs and helps them to progress.

How well children and young people are helped and protected: good

The vulnerabilities of the children and young people are well understood by the manager and all of the staff. Full information is gathered prior to any admissions and is used to inform detailed risk assessments. This written documentation clearly guides staff in the ways to mitigate any risks. The good communication systems help to ensure that all of the staff are up to date with this information.

Staff teach children and young people about positive behaviour. Physical intervention is used only when absolutely necessary and to prevent harm. It is recorded in line with the regulations.

The manager has recently improved the recording of physical marks sustained by the

children and young people. This makes it easier for staff to identify any recurring patterns of injury, and enhances their safeguarding practice.

The manager has also reviewed medication procedures, following advice from health personnel, and has introduced measures to ensure full compliance with regulations regarding the use of controlled drugs.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The home is led by an experienced manager, and has an established team of staff who are suitably qualified and experienced. They receive the training necessary to meet the specific, complex needs of the children and young people, for example peg feeding, stoma care and management of epilepsy.

The staff team has been stable for a number of years. However, recruitment has recently commenced. The manager held an open day to attract potential new recruits. She is committed to ensuring that any new staff have the right level of skills and experience to fully meet the needs of the children and young people.

Staff's accountability and ownership of care practice are fostered by regular supervision and team meetings. The manager creates opportunities for staff to develop their skills, such as through being involved in the recruitment process.

Monitoring systems to ensure the quality of practice in the home are particularly strong, with the manager having a good oversight of all aspects of the service. She ensures that the home operates within the statement of purpose. She has an excellent knowledge of any risks to the children and young people, and regularly reviews and acts on these. This helps to safeguard the children and young people.

The manager gathers feedback from the parents and carers, and uses it to inform her review of the service. Staff also use a variety of ways, such as observation, to capture the views of the children and young people, and these are acted on where possible. For example, one young person pointed out that her bedroom mirror was too low for her to see herself, so a full-length one was installed.

Staff provide consistent care practice, helped by clear care-planning documentation, which is regularly reviewed. Much of it is written from the child's or young person's point of view, which ensures that the focus remains on the needs of that child or young person.

The manager has good links with social workers and the transition team. This ensures that, as the children and young people grow older, planning for transition to adult services can start in a timely manner.

Information about this inspection

Inspectors have looked closely at the experiences and progress of children and young people. Inspectors considered the quality of work and the difference made to the lives of children and young people. They watched how professional staff work with children and young people and each other and discussed the effectiveness of help and care provided. Wherever possible, they talked to children and 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 whom it is trying to help, protect and look after.

Using the 'Social care common inspection framework', this inspection was carried out under the Care Standards Act 2000 to assess the effectiveness of the service, how it meets the core functions of the service as set out in legislation, 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'.

Children's home details

Unique reference number: SC033152

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered Provider: North Lincolnshire Council

Registered provider address: Pittwood House, Ashby Road, Scunthorpe, South Humberside DN16 1AB

Responsible individual: Darren Chaplin

Registered manager: Lesley McKenzie

Inspector

Janet Black, social care inspector

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