

The Newman Holiday Trust

The Newman Holiday Trust

Lowbrook Barn, Lancaster Road, Slyne, Lancaster LA2 6AL

Inspection under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this residential holiday scheme for disabled children

The Newman Holiday Trust is a voluntary organisation which provides summer holidays for disabled children.

The trust provides seven one-week holidays a year at various venues in England and Scotland. It aims to provide a range of activities and experiences for disabled children who would not otherwise have a holiday.

The registered manager has been registered since 2014.

Inspection dates: 14 August 2019

Overall experience and progress of children and young people, taking into account: **outstanding**

How well children, young people are helped and protected **outstanding**

The effectiveness of leaders and managers **outstanding**

The residential holiday scheme for disabled children provides highly effective services that consistently exceed the standards of good. The actions of the residential holiday scheme contribute to significantly improved outcomes and positive experiences for children and young people.

Date of previous inspection: 17 August 2018

Overall judgement at last inspection: outstanding

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

What does the holiday scheme need to do to improve?

The areas for development for the residential holiday scheme for disabled children:

- The registered person approves the Statement of Purpose and reviews it annually. ('The national minimum standards for residential holiday schemes for disabled children', NMS 7.4)
- Visits to the scheme carried out under regulation 29 include relevant checks set out in regulations and guidance and are completed by the provider's representative, who is not the scheme's registered manager. ('The national minimum standards for residential holiday schemes for disabled children', NMS 14.6)

Inspection judgement

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: outstanding

Children with varying needs and disabilities enjoy fantastic holidays, where they try out new and highly enjoyable activities, make new friends and learn new life skills.

The exemplary level of planning for each holiday by the registered manager in liaison with each holiday's organiser means that all children can participate in exciting and stimulating activities along with their peers and trusted adults.

The participants' journey through their week's holiday is remarkable as they learn to share their play space with other children, tolerate and respect each other and enhance their social lives outside their family group. These steps are made even more significant by the fact that the children do not have short breaks in any other provision, and so their holiday is their first opportunity to learn and practise their independence skills.

On site, the children receive consistent help and support from well-trained and clearly briefed volunteers. The provision of pre-holiday home visits enables families to provide their expert view on the best ways to care for children, and this advice is well recorded in clear plans and consistently followed in practice during the scheme.

This means that all children, including those with complex needs, enjoy a relaxed and comfortable stay away from their main care-givers. Likewise, the children's families, having contributed towards the care planning, are reassured about the scheme's care for their child.

The children enjoy individual one-to-one all-round support, which meets all of their areas of need. These could include complex health needs, mobility challenges, use of alternative communication systems or need for confidence building. The volunteer team includes adults with nursing experience, who support and oversee the safe administration of medication, specialist feeding programmes, continence management and the responses to accidents or minor injuries.

The team of volunteers works tirelessly and highly consistently to provide specialised care in a non-stigmatising and inclusive environment. For example, a child using a specific feeding programme enjoys the same sociable meal times as their peers, while receiving discreet and competent care.

Volunteers quickly respond to children's changing moods and readily pick up on non-verbal communication that children use to make their views known. For example, a child indicating that they were upset was quickly responded to by sensitive adults who provided suitable alternative activity and encouragement to lift the child's mood.

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

Proactive and creative safeguarding practice enables all children, including the most vulnerable, to have a strong sense of safety and well-being. Children are relaxed and comfortable in the group and know who to go to if they have any concerns or worries.

The group is confident in and relies on care which is provided by adults whom group members trust. Meticulous matching of volunteers to each child or young person means that each individual is kept safe, and feels safe, during the holiday.

The scheme uses extremely clear risk assessment and management strategies to help keep children safe. Sessions are well assessed for risk, so that children can participate fully in new and exhilarating activities such as fire building and den making.

The holiday organiser is fully aware of statutory safeguarding partners and demonstrates that referrals can be suitably made and followed up once holidays are concluded. Any allegations by young people are immediately acted on and referred to the correct agency for attention.

The scheme completes all vetting and suitability checks on volunteers, to ensure that adults caring for children are safe to do so.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: outstanding

The holiday organiser's confident and ambitious approach to the holiday programme is readily shared throughout the volunteer group. All adults present at the holiday share the inclusive and participative culture and demonstrate this in their sensitive care and support for individual children. This enables children to enjoy a high-quality holiday and have new and inspirational experiences that they never forget.

Volunteers complete both bespoke training, tailored to the needs of the participants, and general training that is refreshed each holiday. Volunteers return regularly to offer their support to the trust's programme and to provide the much-valued holiday experience for the children.

The holiday is efficiently organised. The venue is highly suitable for an activity holiday, and volunteers can focus on the care and support of the children in their charge, as catering is provided by the venue's provider.

The scheme meets and exceeds its aims and objectives that are listed in the statement of purpose. However, the document version available during the scheme was the 2017 copy. The current year's version should be made available. The scheme uses user feedback very well to enhance and improve each holiday that it

provides. The registered manager, trustees and organiser are clearly aware of the scheme's strengths and areas for development and make suitable changes to enhance future schemes.

The detailed quality monitoring completed by the scheme's trustees was in operation during the inspection. Accounts of previous year's monitoring visits are well maintained and used to enhance the activities and care provided to children. One report relating to a scheme running last year was completed by the individual who is the scheme's registered manager and, therefore, not fully independent. This was one report out of several completed by the trustees and did not have an impact on the extremely high quality of care and support provided to children.

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 differences 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 the 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 residential holiday scheme for disabled children 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 Residential Holiday Schemes for Disabled Children (England) Regulations 2013 and the national minimum standards.

Residential holiday scheme for disabled children

Unique reference number: 1027083

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