

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

PEOPLE CABINET MEMBER

OFSTED INSPECTION OF NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE SHORT BREAK CHILDREN'S HOME

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1. To inform the Cabinet Member of the outcomes of the recent Ofsted inspections of the North Lincolnshire Short Break Children's Home on 11 October 2012

2 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 All Children's Homes are subject to annual inspections carried out by Ofsted Inspector. In April 2011, Ofsted revised their Children's Home Inspection processes and a new inspection framework was implemented. The revisions to the inspection process were intended to make inspections more focused on outcomes for children.
- 2.2 This report is to inform cabinet member of the inspection of the North Lincolnshire Short Breaks Children's Home. Ofsted carry out two inspections per year of the home. One is a 'full' inspection and the other an 'interim' inspection, both are unannounced. This inspection was the home's 'full' inspection and was carried out over 2 days on 11/12 October 2012.
- 2.6 The full inspection focuses in depth on the home and the outcomes for the children living there, the inspector makes their judgment under the following headings:
- Overall effectiveness
 - Outcomes for children and young people
 - Quality of care
 - Safeguarding children and young people
 - Leadership and management

Under each of these headings the home is judged to be:

- Outstanding
 - Good
 - Satisfactory
 - Inadequate
- 2.7 Inspectors can make judgments as to whether requirements or recommendations are needed. A requirement is a mandatory action. A recommendation is a suggestion to improve current practice.
- 2.8 The Short Break Children's Home is run by North Lincolnshire Council. The home is registered to provide a service for up to six children, male or female between the ages of 5 and 17-years-old, who have a learning disability and may also have a physical disability. The home offers a short break service and no child / young person is accommodated on a long-term basis. One of the six places is used for emergency short break provision. The home can also provide occasional day care.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

3.1 The home was judged to be 'Outstanding' overall with the following judgments:

- Outcomes for children and young people – Outstanding
- Quality of care – Outstanding
- Safeguarding children and young people – Good
- Leadership and management – Outstanding

These outcomes are consistent with the outcomes of the last inspection which was carried out on 21 June 2011.

Key points in the inspection report:

- 3.2 Young people make exceptional progress from their starting points. The progress may be small to some but can be a real achievement such as tolerating or touching a new food. All achievements are recognised and celebrated by staff. Parents and social workers have identified significant improvements in extending food groups that young people will try and enjoy.
- 3.3 There are very strong links with local schools that the young people attend. Education staff said, 'there is a high level of involvement and they work collaboratively to consistently meet young people's needs.' Staff visit the school to share practice in managing behaviours and helping young people achieve their targets. This ensures young people are supported to progress.
- 3.4 Young people's health needs are very well addressed within their care plans and supported by risk assessments for areas such as epilepsy. Staff are well trained to meet the health needs and are very clear about what responsibilities and decisions are delegated to them. Young people and their parents benefit from excellent links with health agencies who work closely to ensure health needs are identified and met.
- 3.5 Parents say the home is warm and welcoming and staff are excellent at communicating with them. Staff give a full picture of the young person's time in the home including positive aspects as well as any incidents which may occur. They have a few new staff and the manager ensures parents are given names and photographs so they can prepare their children before they stay at the service. This was very well received by the parents. Also, for those young people who find change difficult, this assisted with the transition and is excellent practice.
- 3.6 Young people benefit from excellent relationships with staff. They provide a warm and nurturing environment where young people can relax and enjoy their visit. Young people say they like coming to the home. Staff are very aware of young people's individuality, background and identity.
- 3.7 Young people are supported to make a complaint. The complaints leaflet is pictorial; in addition the home has a grumbles book and any concerns raised are acted upon quickly by the manager. The advocate has recently attended Makaton training to enhance their skills in communicating with the young people and seeking their views.
- 3.8 Young people say they feel safe and are safe. Staff demonstrate a good understanding of what to do in the event of a safeguarding incident or where there is suspicion of harm or abuse. They are aware of the procedures both for safeguarding and whistleblowing and follow them in practice should the need arise.

- 3.9 Young people are well supported in developing acceptable behaviours and where necessary skilled staff diffuse incidents. The use of restraint is minimal and is only used as a last resort as a safety measure to protect young people.
- 3.10 Young people are kept safe by staff's vigilance. Regular health and safety and maintenance checks ensure young people live in a safe environment. Fire evacuations are held regularly to make sure young people are familiar with the procedure. Risk assessments ensure risks are minimised to provide a safe environment for young people to stay. Young people are protected by sound procedures for recruiting and selecting staff, and sufficiently robust arrangements for visitors protect young people from harm.
- 3.11 This is an exceptionally well-managed home. The registered manager is well qualified and experienced and leads a team who are committed and enthusiastic to providing high quality care and excellent outcomes for young people. Staff are well supported through supervision, annual appraisals and team meetings.
- 3.12 The home has a clear statement of purpose which identifies the ethos, aims and objectives of the home and is available to interested parties. Each child has a pictorial guide that provides them with information about the home. This is excellent, making it specific to the child. There is also a welcome guide for the parents which summarises what they can expect from the home.
- 3.13 Records are clear, up to date and stored securely. Files are well constructed and give an excellent understanding of the young person's life.
- 3.14 The inspector noted:

“The home is very well run and the manager and staff are committed to driving improvement and maximising opportunities for young people to develop and progress. The manager and staff have excellent working relationships with parents and health and social care professionals. This ensures that young people are central to decision making and have the best possible outcomes.

Young people are consulted using their preferred method of communication which enables all young people to contribute to the day-to-day running of the home. Methods for engaging young people are varied and ensure their views are captured to support continual improvement of the quality of care provided by the home.

Young people say they feel safe and are safe. Skilled staff ensure young people are provided with information on how to keep themselves safe. The environment is physically safe and appropriately secure to protect young people from harm. There is one recommendation for improvement made at this inspection which relates to the training of staff in the Children and Young People's Workforce Diploma. This does not impact on the care of the young people as the majority of staff are trained to this level and above”

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

- 4.1 The inspection findings are final.
- 4.2 It is important that the 'Outstanding' is maintained and that plans / strategies are continually reviewed in the light of changing needs / changing cohorts of children and young people. It is also important that learning from the inspection and the overall effectiveness rating of 'Outstanding' is shared with colleagues and other children's homes in North Lincolnshire. Working in 'partnership' with colleagues

from health, education and the voluntary / community sector is so very important / crucial when meeting the needs of disabled children and young people.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)

5.1 None in this report

6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS (STATUTORY, ENVIRONMENTAL, DIVERSITY, SECTION 17 - CRIME AND DISORDER, RISK AND OTHER)

6.1 The inspection was carried out under the statutory responsibilities given by the Care Standards Act 2000, and against the Outcomes for Children set within the Children Act 2004 and National Minimum Standards for Children's Homes, revised April 2011

6.2 Each home completes a Statement of Purpose that ensures it takes consideration of the child's individual needs and national standards for effective practice.

7. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION

7.1 Inspectors gather evidence from a variety of sources, including a range of relevant professionals, children and staff within the homes and through the scrutiny of relevant documentation.

7.2 Observation of the children in the homes and how they relate to their carers plays an important role in the inspection process.

8 RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 That the Cabinet Member notes the outcome of the latest inspection of the Short Break Children's Home.

DIRECTOR OF PEOPLE

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Background Papers used in the preparation of this report

Ofsted inspection report of Short Break Children's Home