

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

**ADULT AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES
CABINET MEMBER**

OFSTED INSPECTION OF A NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE 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 inspection of Home A, a Short Break Children's Home
- 1.2 A full copy of the inspection report is available in Group offices.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 All Children's Homes are subject to annual inspections carried out by Ofsted inspectors. Each home has two inspections per year; a full inspection, which is set against the full Ofsted evaluation schedule and results in graded outcomes, and an interim inspection, which looks at particular aspects of care and is graded according to the progress being made since the last full inspection.
- 2.2 Inspections are 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.
- 2.3 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.
- 2.4 The inspection reports give a graded judgment on the overall effectiveness of the provision, outcomes for children and young people, the quality of care, the safeguarding of children and young people, leadership and management and equality and diversity.
- 2.5 The judgments are categorised under four criteria:
 - **Outstanding:** this aspect of the provision is of exceptionally high quality.
 - **Good:** this aspect of the provision is strong
 - **Satisfactory:** this aspect of the provision is sound
 - **Inadequate:** this aspect of the service provision is not good enough
- 2.6 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.

2.7 Home A is a children's home 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.

2.8 The Ofsted unannounced inspection took place on 21 June 2011.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

3.1 The outcome of the inspection for Home A was:

Overall Effectiveness – OUTSTANDING

- Outcomes for children and young people - Outstanding.
- Quality of Care - Outstanding.
- Safeguarding – Good.
- Leadership and Management – Outstanding.
- Equality and Diversity Practice – Outstanding.

The previous inspection was 16 February 2011. In this period 'Leadership and Management' has improved and moved from 'Good' to 'Outstanding'. All of the other three 'Outstanding' areas were 'Outstanding' at the last inspection.

There was one requirement, which asked for the home to ensure that a record of intervention details the timescales in all cases. This has been remedied and the manager will ensure that they quality assure this in the future.

3.2 Key points in the inspection report are:

- Staff work well with educational settings - giving consistent practise in managing behaviour and communication. 'The educational needs of children are celebrated'.
- They add that 'Staff are appropriately trained in care and control, which includes restraint and is regularly updated'.
- Excellent multi-agency approach in place to support medical and health needs. The home has recently been adapted to accommodate disabled children and young people with complex health/medical needs
- Children and young people are clearly viewed as individuals - plans reflect needs, likes and dislikes. Introduction of the 'All About Me' booklet focuses upon the child.
- Participation and consultation – children and young people are given choices throughout their stay - from menus to activities. There is a good range of activities within the community.

- The children and young people are consulted and involved in the home developments – such as the improvements in the accommodation and the play equipment in the garden.
- Excellent information. There is a 'Welcome booklet' in written format and pictorial format to meet individual needs.
- Robust safeguarding procedures with staff working with children on all aspects of keeping children safe.
- There is strong commitment from all staff to improve the service for the benefit of children and young people and providing 'excellent outcomes'.
- The inspector consulted with other professionals and agencies during the inspection, including: social workers, health colleagues, school colleagues and Independent Reviewing Officers. Safeguarding was the primary focus of these discussions. The feedback was positive and it was clear that the children are safe and protected. There was one previous requirement identified in relation to the recording of timescales and this has been actioned.
- 'Staff talk with pride about the progress children have made whilst attending the home and how they work in partnership with parents'.
- Equality and diversity. There is a written development plan which is realistic.
- 'Children benefit from very good relationships with staff, supported by a largely consistent and long-term staff team. Staff develop positive relationships overtime by their knowledge of each child's individual needs'.
- 'Children say they like coming to the home and particularly like seeing their friends'.

3.3 In conclusion the inspector noted:

'This is a well-run home, with staff who are child-centred in their approach and who demonstrate professionalism in their practice. Staff are trained and qualified so that they have the skills to meet the needs of the children in their care. They understand their role and provide good and outstanding outcomes to children. Staff are properly supported by senior staff and a manager and they communicate very well within the team to ensure consistency in the way children are cared for. The manager demonstrates a commitment to improving the service for the benefit of children'.

'Children benefit from living in a homely environment that is very well maintained and kept safe. The service has robust systems in place to ensure that children are protected and cared for safely'.

'Children are clearly viewed as individuals and plans reflect their needs, likes and dislikes'.

- 3.4 It is important that North Lincolnshire builds upon this success and that learning from the inspection and the overall effectiveness rating of 'Outstanding' is shared with colleagues and other children's homes in North Lincolnshire.
- 3.5 Working in 'partnership' with colleagues from health, education and the voluntary/community sector is crucial when meeting the needs of disabled children and young people.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

- 4.1 This report reflects the inspection outcome.

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

- 5.1 None

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

- 6.1 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 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 Adult and Children's Services Cabinet Member welcomes the outcome of this inspection.

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Background Papers used in the preparation of this report: Ofsted Inspection Report on the relevant Children's Home in North Lincolnshire undertaken on 21 June 2011