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08/04/2014

Our Reference SC059203

Mrs Daljit Lally
Northumberland County Council
County Hall
Morpeth
Northumberland
NE61 2EF



Dear Mrs Lally

Inspection report

An Ofsted inspector inspected your children's home provision on 14/03/2014.

Please find enclosed:

- a copy of your inspection report

The inspection report

The inspection report sets out Ofsted's judgements about the quality of the provision you offer. Please make the report available to children and young people and relevant stakeholders. We normally publish your report on the internet within 20 working days of the end of the inspection.

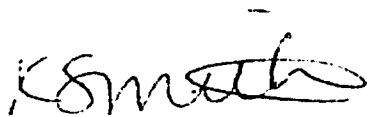
The version of the report published on our website will not include any information that identifies the name or location of the home. However, you can identify it by your unique reference number (URN).

If you identify any factual errors please contact our helpline on 0300 123 1231 or send an email to enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk, within five working days of the date of this letter.

Ofsted values feedback from those services that it has inspected. You will shortly be emailed a copy of a post inspection questionnaire. We would be very grateful if you could complete the questionnaire about your recent inspection. If you do not receive a copy within three working days of receipt of this letter, please email the address below:

post.inspection.surveys@ofsted.gov.uk

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kerry Smith". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "K" and a long, sweeping underline.

Kerry Smith
Delivery, Performance and Support Team

Barndale Short Break

Inspection report for children's home

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| Unique reference number | SC059203 |
| Inspection date | 14/03/2014 |
| Inspector | Nicholas Murphy |
| Type of inspection | Interim |
| Provision subtype | Children's home |

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Setting address | Barndale House, Howling Lane, ALNWICK, Northumberland, NE66 1DQ |
| Telephone number | 01665 605921 |
| Email | susan.ghulam@northumberland.gov.uk |
| Registered person | Northumberland County Council |
| Registered manager | Susan Elizabeth Ghulam |
| Responsible individual | Daljit Lally |
| Date of last inspection | 18/11/2013 |

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Service information

Brief description of the service

This children’s home provides short breaks for six children who have a learning disability. The home is operated by the local authority.

The inspection judgements and what they mean

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Good progress | The children’s home has demonstrated continued improvement in quality of care and outcomes for children and young people and where appropriate has addressed all requirements and the large majority of recommendations that were raised at the previous inspection. |
| Satisfactory progress | The children’s home has maintained quality of care and outcomes for children and young people and where appropriate has addressed all requirements and the majority of recommendations that were raised at the previous inspection. |
| Inadequate progress | The children’s home has failed to address one or more requirements and/or has not met the majority of recommendations and/or the quality of care and outcomes for children and young people have declined since the last full inspection. |

Progress

Since their previous inspection the service is judged to be making **good progress**.

The home received a full inspection in November 2013, when it was judged to be outstanding in all areas and for overall effectiveness. No statutory requirements or recommendations were made. Since that time, the home has continued to make improvements. The Registered Manager has ensured that the home meets new regulations. She has also been proactive in addressing requirements which have not yet come into force. For example, the home has completed a risk assessment of the locality in conjunction with the police and local authority. This ensures that any potential risks to young people can be more effectively identified and managed.

Outcomes for young people are excellent. Young people relish the time that they spend at the home. One parent said, ‘My child just loves it here.’ In addition, young people make clear, evidenced progress in a range of areas. Monthly reports detail the improvements that young people make in achieving their individual goals. These include self-care skills, such as brushing their teeth without close supervision. Records for another young person show how their fine motor skills have improved, meaning that they are now able to cut up their own food at the dining table. This promotes young people’s independence and enhances their self-esteem.

Placement plans are highly individualised to the needs of each young person. They are written in a child-centred, personalised way, giving priority to the wishes and feelings of the young person. For example, one young person's plan in relation to medication specifies that staff must ask them how they would prefer to take it. Plans are regularly updated to take account of changes as the young person matures or learns new skills. This ensures that young people are continually being set new targets to develop to the best of their ability.

Staff are zealous in enabling young people to exercise as much choice as possible when they come to stay. Young people have freedom to choose their meals and what activities they want to do. Staffing levels are sufficient to ensure that young people are not restricted in their choice of a wide range of stimulating activities and outings. These include group shopping expeditions, which are eagerly anticipated by young people. Such trips are not only enjoyable but also build confidence, providing social interaction and experience of handling money.

Parents are confident that their children are safe when they come to stay. Staff use their skills and the quality of their relationships with young people to manage behaviour effectively and without drama. Consequently, the incidence of physical intervention is virtually unknown. Young people get on well with each other. They make meaningful friendships and take pleasure in each others' company. This gives young people feelings of security and well-being and maximises the benefit that they derive from each visit.

About this inspection

The purpose of this inspection is to assure children and young people, parents, the public, local authorities and government of the quality and standard of the service provided. The 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 relevant regulations and meets the national minimum standards.

The report details the progress made by the provider since the last full inspection, identifies any further strengths, any areas for improvement and makes judgements as outlined in the *Inspection of children's homes – framework for inspection*.