

Lothian Autistic Society Edinburgh Daycare Day Care of Children

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Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 25 July 2017

Service provided by:
Lothian Autistic Society

Service provider number:
SP2003002777

Care service number:
CS2007156209

About the service

Lothian Autistic Society (LAS) Edinburgh Daycare, referred to the service in this report, are registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 100 children and young people at any one time aged five years to 18 years of age. The service can operate Monday to Friday during school holidays and at weekends from 8.00am to 6.00pm, in Local Authority school premises, community resources and premises in Edinburgh, East Lothian and Midlothian.

The playscheme was run over two sites at Oaklands School, Edinburgh and St. Crispin's School, Edinburgh. The service runs as part of a consortium of services who tendered to operate playschemes for children with additional support needs, Asperger's Syndrome and Autism during the summer, Easter and October breaks. This inspection focussed on the playscheme part of the service operating from Oaklands School.

Oaklands School is a school designed for children with a varying range of complex additional support needs. The school is situated in a residential area of West Pilton, Edinburgh. The service had use of much of the building including access to several playrooms, soft play, swimming pool, gym hall, dining hall and outdoor areas.

Lothian Autistic Society have developed a clear purpose and vision which is shared with parents and carers through literature provided by the organisation.

Our Purpose:

To provide services, information and practical support to:

- Individuals on the autistic spectrum residing in the Lothians, their families and carers.
- Provide information and training for those involved in their care.
- Support others living with, or supporting those with disabilities and who are in need as resources permit.

Our Vision:

We aspire to be the 'go to' organisation in the Lothians who want practical help, training, services and support around autism. To achieve this we will:

- Have accreditations, awards and recognition for what we do and how we work.
- Hold specialist knowledge and understand about autism.
- Work with other organisations to bring the best possible support to our members.

We check services are meeting the principles of Getting it Right for Every Child (also known as GIRFEC), Scotland's national approach to improving outcomes and wellbeing for children by offering the right help at the right time from the right people. It supports them and their parent(s) to work with the services that can help them. There are eight wellbeing indicators at the heart of Getting it right for every child: safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible and included.

What people told us

There were 45 children using the service on the day of our visit. Children were generally busy with a range of activities including regular trips, activities such as baking, group times and individual choice.

We issued 30 care standard questionnaires to parents who use the playscheme. Thirteen of these were returned to us prior to the inspection. All parents agreed or strongly agreed that they were happy with the quality of care their child received in the service. Comments included:

'Invaluable service for families who have children with Autism. Allows children to socialise and enjoy a range of experiences and activities.'

'A good service which can be trusted by parents.'

'Our child loves the service and the activities they provide.'

'My child's needs are a difficult combination of behavioural, emotional and medical needs. We often found it difficult to access services as a result. LAS have done an amazing job of looking after the, supporting them and introducing them to new experiences.'

'Wonderful provision and we are very happy with the standard of care.'

'My son loves to go to the LAS playscheme, it is a great opportunity for him to mix with his peers, meet new people and have positive relationships with the staff, who he adores.'

Self assessment

The service had not been asked to complete a self assessment in advance of the inspection. We looked at their own improvement plan and quality assurance paperwork. These demonstrated their priorities for development and how they were monitoring the quality of the provision within the service.

From this inspection we graded this service as:

Quality of care and support	5 - Very Good
Quality of environment	5 - Very Good
Quality of staffing	not assessed
Quality of management and leadership	not assessed

What the service does well

The service provided very good levels of care and support to children of a wide age range and differing abilities. The organisation had collected information from a number of sources on each child at the registration stage. Information was regularly updated and added to ensure it was complete enough for staff to meet children's individual needs effectively. Information included aspirational outcomes for the child's time at the playscheme. These were identified by parents and in some instances staff to ensure that experiences could be worked towards and measured in some way.

Communication methods with parents and other professionals who worked with individual children were very good. The majority of children came to the playscheme by mini bus. Staff used a daily diary to ensure that parents had important information and could share information with the keyworker. Bus escorts also talked to parents and carers to pass on and receive information. Communication methods used with children were very good. Children were able to indicate choices and preferences. Staff were very observant and good at interpreting non verbal communication. Children used a range of tools such as pictorial prompts and visual timetables to communicate with staff and understand what would be happening during their day.

Many of the children had complex medical needs and staff were very well supported by the school nursing team. Staff stated that they had received very good support from them regarding the administration of medication and advice about managing individual children's needs.

Children were grouped together in small groups of similar abilities. This made planning activities and outings easier but also promoted the possibility of friendships between peers. The adult to child ratio was mostly on a one to one basis or in some instances two adults to one child. We noted that staff were not over bearing in their supervision of children providing children with the freedom to undertake activities when they wished.

To make sure that children were safe and secure in the playscheme a range of risk assessments were used. The format of these had recently been reviewed to ensure that they were comprehensive. Where necessary some children had personal risk assessments to make sure that activities were safe for them to take part in. We found that these assessments enabled children to take part in a greater range of activities as staff took additional measures to make sure children could join in rather than being excluded from an activity.

What the service could do better

LAS had taken up the running of this service at quite short notice given the amount of information which needed to be gathered on individual children. Managers and staff had assessed that this had resulted in them having less background information, on children's care and support needs, from as wide a range of sources as they would have normally used.

We spoke to the managers and some staff about the range of resources available in each of the playrooms and in the outdoor area. There needed to be a better balance between ensuring the environment was safe and making sure there were enough resources in each room to make it appealing and interesting for children.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Complaints

There have been no complaints upheld since the last inspection. Details of any older upheld complaints are published at www.careinspectorate.com.

Inspection and grading history

Date	Type	Gradings
8 Jul 2014	Unannounced	Care and support 6 - Excellent Environment 6 - Excellent Staffing 6 - Excellent Management and leadership 6 - Excellent
16 Jul 2012	Announced (short notice)	Care and support 6 - Excellent

Date	Type	Gradings	
		Environment	6 - Excellent
		Staffing	6 - Excellent
		Management and leadership	6 - Excellent
24 Aug 2009	Unannounced	Care and support	5 - Very good
		Environment	4 - Good
		Staffing	5 - Very good
		Management and leadership	5 - Very good

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