

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC004085
Inspection date	24/01/2012
Inspector	Maureen Hamer
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	09/08/2011
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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 (March 2011)*.

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.

Service information

Brief description of the service

The home is a short break residential home for children and young people with severe physical and/or learning disabilities. It is run by an independent not-for-profit organisation working to meet the needs of children with physical and learning disabilities. It is registered to provide care for up to seven children or young people at any one time. Day care is also provided.

Progress

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

At the last inspection in August 2011 the home was judged to be providing a satisfactory service overall.

Young people receive a good quality of care in this short break provision. Staff respond well to the needs of young people ensuring they are safe and promoting their welfare. Staff state that they enjoy providing young people with a positive experience and helping them to develop life skills.

Requirements from the last inspection have been acted upon. The manager has worked with staff to review risk assessments to ensure that they promote young people's welfare. Appropriate records are maintained on individual young people ensuring that all necessary information is available. Behaviour and placement plans are in place to enable consistency of care and to promote young people's well-being.

Quality of care is comprehensively and regularly monitored and evaluated contributing to the manager's ability to identify strengths and areas for improvement. Young people, parents and placing authorities are engaged in gaining feedback regarding quality of services but this is not always explicitly used to inform improvements and the reports are not submitted to Ofsted.

Staff are provided with regular supervision to ensure that they are well supported to provide good quality care to young people. Systems have also been put in place to verify staff references, ensuring that young people's welfare is promoted by being cared for by staff with appropriate knowledge and experience.

Staff have undertaken some work to ensure that the children's guide is as accessible as possible to young people to support young people to be aware of the services that they can expect. However in the event that they or their parent want to raise a concern the full contact details of the Children's Rights Director, Ofsted and, where appropriate their Independent Reviewing Officer, have not been put in place.

There has been some redecoration of some parts of the home which has contributed to its homely atmosphere.

Areas for improvement

Statutory Requirements

This section sets out the actions which must be taken so that the registered person/s meets the Care Standards Act 2000, Children's Homes Regulations 2001 and the National Minimum Standards. The registered person(s) must comply with the given timescales.

Reg.	Requirement	Due date
34 (2001)	supply to HMCI a report in respect of any review conducted monitoring the quality of care provided in the children's home and ensure that it provides for consultation with children accommodated in the home, their parents and placing authorities. (Regulation 34 (2) (3))	27/04/2012

Recommendations

To improve the quality and standards of care further the service should take account of the following recommendation(s):

- include a summary of what the home sets out to do for children, how they can find out their rights, how a child can contact their Independent Reviewing Officer, the Children's Rights Director, Ofsted if they wish to raise a concern with inspectors, and how to secure access to an independent advocate. (NMS 13.5)