

## Inspection report for children's home

---

|                                |                |
|--------------------------------|----------------|
| <b>Unique reference number</b> | SC008485       |
| <b>Inspection date</b>         | 28/02/2012     |
| <b>Inspector</b>               | Caroline Jones |
| <b>Type of inspection</b>      | Interim        |
| <b>Provision subtype</b>       |                |

---

|                                |            |
|--------------------------------|------------|
| <b>Date of last inspection</b> | 07/11/2011 |
|--------------------------------|------------|

---

© Crown copyright 2012

Website: [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)

This document may be reproduced in whole or in part for non-commercial educational purposes, provided that the information quoted is reproduced without adaptation and the source and date of publication are stated.

## Service information

### Brief description of the service

This is a private children's home that provides care and accommodation for up to nine young people with physical disabilities and emotional and/or behavioural difficulties. There are two homes covered by a single registration.

### The inspection judgements and what they mean

|                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Good progress</b>         | 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. |
| <b>Satisfactory progress</b> | 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.                                  |
| <b>Inadequate progress</b>   | 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 **inadequate** progress.

At the previous full inspection the overall effectiveness was judged as outstanding. This high standard of quality has not been maintained as a number of shortfalls have been identified. The home's lack of robust recruitment and employment practices means that thorough checks are not carried out on staff to ensure they are the suitable to work with young people. Additionally, financial penalties have been used inappropriately as sanctions, which is contrary to regulations and impacts upon young people's rights.

Recommendations from the previous inspection have been addressed and young people receive regular one-to-one time with staff, which is now scheduled into the rota system. Monitoring trends within the home continues to be developed and efforts to secure pathway plans from local authorities are on-going. The visits under Regulation 33 have been improved and include young people's views.

Clear boundaries and routines are well established within the home, which help young people to understand their situation and what to expect from staff. As a result

young people's placements have remained stable. There are caring and respectful exchanges between staff and young people and they are relaxed and happy in their home. Young people commented, 'I feel safe; I like staff they care; I will be able to do something with my life here.'

Young people continue to develop in a nurturing and homely environment, although some areas of the home require maintenance and redecoration. Staff champion young people's development to enable them to achieve their full potential, in particular enhancing young people's education. Young people contribute their views for change and development of the home but these requests are not routinely acted upon; for example, issues raised in young people's meetings have not been addressed. Consequently, young people's views and wishes have not been respected.

Staff are committed to young people and the core team remains stable, which provides consistency and predictability for young people. The home is operating according to the conditions set and all young people are appropriately placed. Quality assurance systems provide oversight of the care provided and plans are in place to develop the service further. Recordings in the home are generally good, however, these are not always clear and do not distinguish fact and opinion, in particular to incident reports.

## 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   |
|--------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| 17<br>(2001) | ensure that the imposition of financial penalties as disciplinary measures are not used within the children's home other than a requirement for the repayment of a reasonable sum by way of reparation (Regulation 17 (2)(g)) | 29/03/2012 |
| 26<br>(2001) | ensure that full and satisfactory information is available in respect of each of the matters specified in Schedule 2 (Regulation 26 (3)(d))                                                                                   | 29/03/2012 |
| 26<br>(2001) | ensure that staff are fit to work at the children's home and have integrity and good character. (Regulation 26 (3)(a))                                                                                                        | 29/03/2012 |

### Recommendations

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

- ensure that young people's views, wishes and feelings are promoted and acted

upon, in particular to young people's meetings (NMS 1.1)

- ensure that the home is well maintained and decorated (NMS 10.3)
- ensure that entries in records are clear, legible, non stigmatising and distinguish as far as possible between fact and opinion. (NMS 22.4)

## 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)*.