

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC008575
Inspection date	05/02/2013
Inspector	Stella Henderson
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	10/09/2012
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Service information

Brief description of the service

The home is owned and run by a private charitable trust. It provides residential care for up to five young people, who have a physical and/or learning disability.

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**.

At the last full inspection in September 2012 the home was judged to be good overall with good outcomes for young people. Since then young people have continued to make good progress despite the limitations of their highly complex needs.

For example, young people's sleeping patterns are more consistent than when they were first admitted to the home. This enables them to achieve a good night's rest and function well the day next.

Communication methods for young people have improved with the use of digital technology and an increasing range of reference objects. As young people's ability to communicate their needs has developed there has been less need for the gentle restraint that is occasionally used. Improvements in managing young people's personal care needs have enhanced their dignity and independence.

Young people continue to be supported by staff who benefit from effective training to meet their specific complex needs. Good inter-agency working is maintained and young people enjoy a high level of safety and security as there is prompt response to any safeguarding issues which may emerge.

At the last inspection the provider was required to ensure any incidents of restraints were recorded accurately. Recommendations were also raised in relation to these measures being checked by the regulation 33 visitor and to improve the quality of recording generally.

Evidence from this inspection demonstrates that the requirement and recommendations have been met. New shortfalls were identified however in this inspection regarding notifications to Ofsted and monitoring of the home's performance.

For example, although key safeguarding agencies were informed promptly of a recent incident, Ofsted was not notified 'without delay' or informed about a subsequent strategy meeting.

In relation to monitoring the home's activities, a number of these tasks are delegated to deputy staff. However, it is not clear from the records that must be monitored under schedule 6 whether the Registered Manager is herself satisfied that these are accurate, consistent and of good quality. The subsequent regulation 34 report does not evaluate that information, or include the contributions of young people, their parents and stakeholders.

These shortfalls have no direct impact on young people but are an important element of improving the quality of care they experience, as well as checking for compliance with the regulations. Actions are set therefore to assist the provider to improve practice in these areas of procedure.

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
30 (2001)	notify without delay the persons indicated in respect of the event in column 2 of the table under Schedule 5 (Regulation 30)(1)	05/03/2013
34 (2001)	improve the monitoring of the matters set out in Schedule 6 at appropriate intervals. The system referred to in paragraph (1) shall provide for consultation with children accommodated at the home, their parents and placing authorities. (Regulation 34)(1)(3))	05/03/2013

Recommendations

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

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*.