

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspector	Jennie Christopher
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Date of last inspection	16/11/2011
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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 children's home is registered to offer short break placements for children and young people with learning and physical disabilities and sensory impairment. The home is owned and run by a charitable organisation and is registered for 14 children.

Progress

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

At the last inspection in November 2011, the overall quality rating for the service was judged as good with two requirements and four recommendations made. These are judged to have been met, with the exception of monitoring young people's files, which is ongoing. The service demonstrates improvement in the quality of care provided and a commitment to service development. A particular strength of the service is the highly individualised care packages supported by the committed management and staff team.

Requirements set at the last inspection were in relation to providing Ofsted with the reports of managers' monitoring, and inclusion of all relevant sections in restraint recording. Both of the requirements have been met, with updated templates for both. The response to the recommendation set regarding background checks of volunteers ensures all volunteers receive the same scrutiny as regular staff. As a result, recruitment practice has tightened the arrangements which safeguard young people.

Further recommendations included new staff following the Children's Workforce Development Council induction standards; devising a monitoring system for young people's files; and implementing a risk assessment regarding locks on bedroom doors. As appointed, new staff will follow the required format of induction, with senior staff as mentors. Individual key workers are monitoring young people's files, overseen by a nominated member of staff. This is an ongoing issue as the service provides care for a large number of young people, and not all files have been updated. An appropriate risk assessment has been implemented regarding the use of locks on doors. Young people's freedom is ensured by regular checks that locks are only being used as risk assessed for safety purposes.

Young people continue to receive individualised care provided by a committed and competent staff team. Young people benefit from proactive staff who respond promptly to their needs while providing clear boundaries. The culture and practice within the home promote ability, individuality and equality. As a result, young people enjoy positive experiences and relationships with staff and peers.

Since the last inspection, development within the service has included creating more

single occupancy bedrooms, responding to the needs of young people and consultation and planning for a new interactive garden. Young people and their families have enjoyed inclusive events and activities, such as a pantomime and carol service. New feedback forms for parents and carers are available in reception, with a locked post box, should they wish to comment on the service. Continued effective monitoring systems review quality of care and identify areas where outcomes for young people may be improved, such as improved play and outdoor recreation facilities.

Areas for improvement

Recommendations

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

- ensure there is a system in place to monitor the quality and adequacy of record keeping and take action when required with regard to young people's files. (NMS 22.1)