

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspector	Jennie Christopher
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Date of last inspection	20/07/2012
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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/or physical disabilities. The home is owned and run by a charitable organisation.

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 **satisfactory progress**.

At the last full inspection in July 2012, the overall quality rating for the service was good with one requirement and two recommendations made. The service demonstrates continuity in the quality of care provided with a commitment to service development. A particular strength of the service is the variety and activities on offer, both on site and in the community. Staff commitment and enthusiasm in supporting young people to enjoy their breaks is also a credit to the service.

The last inspection set a requirement regarding the home's records of 'time out' as a sanction to be in line with regulations. A new format to record 'time out' has been devised. It includes young people's views and is being used effectively. However, it is not in a format that is tamper proof. The recommendation set to include details of advocacy services, the independent reviewing officer, the Children's Rights Director and Ofsted in the young people's guide has been met. The guide is available in large print and Makaton, ensuring young people understand who they can contact outside of the home if they are worried or concerned. The final recommendation set related to the restriction on movement for a specific young person with the use of a stair

gate. The service has now gained the consent of the young person's parents to use the stair gate, but not that of their placing authority. As a result, this recommendation is repeated.

Young people continue to receive individualised, well-planned care from the committed and consistent staff team. Young people talk positively about their care and the time they spend at the service. Observed interactions suggest their relationships with staff are very good and that they feel safe. Staff have clear and consistent boundaries, ensuring consistency in approach to care and behaviour management. The high staffing ratio ensures young people benefit from the support and attention they require to access activities safely. The culture within the service celebrates individuality and ability. As a result, young people receive high quality care and support based on their individual needs.

Since the last inspection, work has been done to evaluate the current level of service and to identify areas for development. However, reports of independent monitoring visits remain brief and do not detail the quality of care that is provided and the adherence to regulations. The views of young people, parents and social workers are sought, but not included in the reports of these visits. Six monthly monitoring by managers demonstrates all required matters are considered, but it lacks evaluation of the impact of the service on young people and what can be improved. The service demonstrates a commitment to staff training, improving staff's skills through undertaking apprenticeships, diplomas and a thorough approach to completing the induction standards with an external trainer. As a result, staff feel supported and that they are gaining the skills they require to meet young people's needs. The building remains decorated and maintained to a high standard and a water garden play area is currently being installed. A recent visit from the fire authority has led to consolidation of and improved record keeping. Young people continue to benefit from a wide range of activities and have recently enjoyed visits to pantomimes.

Areas for improvement

Recommendations

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

- ensure physical restrictions on normal movement within the home are not used unless this is necessary to safeguard children and promote their welfare and development. Further ensure such measures are only used where agreed with the responsible authority and, if appropriate, the parents (NMS 10.4)
- ensure that records of sanctions, such as 'time out', are recorded in a format that cannot be tampered with after the event (Volume 5, statutory guidance, paragraph 2.91, footnote 13)
- ensure Regulation 33 visits involve observing care practice, inspecting compliance with regulations, and scrutinising how the service is supporting young people to enjoy and achieve. They must wherever possible include private interviews with

young people, those significant to them if appropriate, and staff. The written report on the conduct of the home prepared after the visit should include these matters (Volume 5, statutory guidance, paragraphs 3.12 and 3.13)

- ensure Regulation 34 monitoring includes evaluation of any trends and issues of concern in order to improve the quality of care provided. (Volume 5, statutory guidance, paragraph 3.14)

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*.