

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC013828
Inspection date	07/01/2013
Inspector	Emeline Evans
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	07/08/2012
--------------------------------	------------

© Crown copyright 2013

Website: 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 children's home is registered to provide short-term care for up to six children and young people primarily with physical disabilities and/or learning disabilities. The home is located on a multi-purpose site and operated by a large charitable organisation managed by a Board of Trustees.

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**.

The home was judged as good at the last full inspection in August 2012 with three requirements made and three recommendations for areas identified for improvement.

The home demonstrates continued improvement in the quality of care provided with a clear and focused commitment to service development and achieving positive outcomes for young people. Young people's welfare is enhanced by the good relationships that exist between staff and young people.

The manager has complied with the requirement made at the last inspection for the Statement of Purpose to be revised and this now includes all the required information as detailed in regulations. This has been developed into a detailed and informative document and gives parents and placing authorities a comprehensive overview about what to expect from the home.

Following the last inspection, the Registered Manager has developed the system to

monitor the running of the home. This has resulted in a strategic overview and awareness of key issues and any patterns or trends. Since the last inspection Regulation 33 monitoring visits have taken place to form an opinion on the standard of care in the home. The Registered Manager takes action to address any issues of concern that are identified. However, during these visits the checks of disciplinary measures and use of restraint are not routinely checked. Therefore, these visits do not evaluate if the home has an effective approach to behaviour management.

The home was asked to improve on the recording of restraints. New systems have been introduced to the home, which now ensure all recording is in line with legislation. This is a comprehensive system, which staff are aware of and ensures effective recording and monitoring by the manager is taking place.

Since the last inspection, the management team contacted the local fire and rescue service with regard to securing open some of the fire doors. The local fire and rescue service undertook a fire audit to ensure compliance to the necessary regulations. This audit highlighted some actions to be undertaken; the home has in place a comprehensive action plan and has addressed the majority of the requirements raised. The home has taken appropriate measures to secure the fire doors open and is working to address the remaining actions raised by the fire and rescue service as a priority. The manager has been proactive and incorporated additional fire training within team meetings to ensure all staff are fully aware of the procedure to take in the event of an emergency or fire.

Comprehensive risk assessments of the whole of the environment have been carried out; these include potential risks, hazards and control measures. This actively safeguards young people and staff. However, these risk assessments still do not highlight the use of fobs on external doors for safety reasons; therefore, it is not clear how the home is allowing children as much freedom as possible, consistent with the need to keep them safe. This recommendation is therefore re-stated. The home's procedure for responding to incidents if a child is missing from the home has been revised. It is compatible and takes into account the Runaway and Missing from Home and Care protocols and procedures. Staff are made aware of this process during staff meetings and therefore staff are able to refer to up-to-date guidance.

Staff continue to benefit from regular team meetings and group opportunities to discuss the needs of the young people. Staff report that they feel well supported and encouraged to develop their confidence in ways of working. This promotes continuous improvement in how young people's care is being addressed.

Children continue to receive well-planned care provided by a committed and competent staff team. Staff provide clear boundaries within a caring environment with a real focus on ensuring the children have fun while visiting the home. This commitment is further reflected in the home's development plan, which clearly identifies strengths and areas for improvement within the home. All staff are vigorously working towards improving outcomes.

Areas for improvement

Recommendations

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

- revise the security risk assessment to demonstrate that the use of locks within the home allows children as much freedom as possible, consistent with the need to keep them safe (Volume 5, Statutory Guidance, para 2.108)
- ensure visits to the home carried out under Regulation 33 include checks of any disciplinary measures and use of restraint. (NMS 21.7)

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*.