

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspector	Paula Lahey
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	26/10/2011
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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.

At the full inspection in October 2011, the overall quality rating for the service was judged as good with one requirement and six recommendations set within the inspection report.

This children's home demonstrates continued improvement in the quality of care provided with a clear and focused commitment to service development and achieving positive outcomes for children and young people. This has included managers evaluating and enhancing the current level of service, successfully addressing the requirements and recommendations, and progressing the internal service development plan.

Since the last inspection managers have completely reviewed and revised quality assurance systems. The Registered Manager now completes schedule 6 checks on a monthly basis to monitor the home's compliance with policies and ensures incidents are appropriately responded to and recorded. Additionally, there is a well-understood system for maintaining monitoring in the absence of the manager and senior

managers. The regulation 33 visitor now has a much more independent oversight of the provision and appropriately challenges practice and activities within the home. Each visit ensures that children, families and staff are consulted, and their views on the quality of care provided are valued and acted upon.

Senior staff are seeking to develop a meaningful system of consulting with children and young people about behaviour management interventions. This is a large piece of work and good progress has been made to start to change the culture within the service about supporting young people to develop acceptable behaviour. The behaviour training programme has been fully reviewed and sessions now include a significantly increased focus on de-escalation, working together with children and behavioural theories. This is already proving highly valuable in improving outcomes for children and young people as staff have more understanding about the reasons why children's behaviour may challenge. In addition, staff have also developed individual behaviour support plans and risk assessments detailing personalised approaches to distract, de-escalate and proactively manage behaviour. This is ensuring there is a more consistent approach to supporting children and young people across the staff team. Record forms to document interventions are being reviewed. The proposed format will enable records to be maintained of de-briefing and children's views.

Since the last inspection there has been better planning and deployment of staff and resources at key times, resulting in improved outcomes for children and young people. Mealtimes and activities are delivered in small groups or individually and/or times are staggered. This ensures a more personalised experience for children and young people and promotes age appropriate activities and opportunities. The home has purchased additional food blenders and staff are now making certain each food is pureed separately. This is ensuring children are able to experience the different tastes, textures and sensations of foods and can develop a greater understanding of what they like and dislike. This positively benefits them.

Since the last inspection children and young people have been consulted on the 'rules of the home'. Together, they have been deciding on how they would like everyone to behave when they visit the home. This is encouraging children, staff and visitors to reflect on how they care and support one another.

Managers have a clear plan in place to develop the home further. Work is occurring to enhance the recording system in order to better evidence children and young people's progress and outcomes following each visit. Families have been asked to provide their views on the written communication sharing systems currently in use, and to give examples of what information they would like to receive in the future. Over the coming months the home will have a complete kitchen refurbishment. This will enable improved access to equipment and enhance children and young people's independence skills.

The home's action and development plan has been fully shared with staff during team meetings and appraisal. Already staff are demonstrating an increased

ownership in improving the quality of provision and outcomes for children and young people.

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)*.