

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	24/03/2014
Inspector	Emeline Evans
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	15/10/2013
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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**.

The home was judged as adequate at the last full inspection in October 2013 with two requirements made and seven recommendations for areas identified for improvement.

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 young people. This has included the manager evaluating the current level of service, successfully addressing the requirements and recommendations and providing good care and support for young people.

Since the last inspection, the manager has been provided with greater responsibility in creating management systems and processes within the home. She has compiled a comprehensive development plan, which clearly identifies the strengths and areas for development within the home. The manager is enthusiastic about the future of the home and is now feeling empowered to make positive changes.

The managers have completely reviewed and revised quality assurance systems in the home. The manager completes schedule 6 checks on a regular basis to monitor the home's compliance with policies and this results in awareness of key issues and any patterns or trends are identified. Young people's views are incorporated into this monitoring to inform the quality of care. The manager is also developing communication and feedback with parents and professionals, to enable the individual needs of the children to be fully addressed and a holistic approach to be maintained. The content of monthly Regulation 33 reports has been improved and this now evaluates the standard of care provided within the home. Management's response to identified weaknesses is prompt. The service ensures that these monitoring reports are promptly forwarded to Ofsted for review.

The Statement of Purpose has been reviewed following the last inspection. This has resulted in a comprehensive document more accurately reflecting the service provided to young people. There is a clear focus on the aims and ethos of the home.

In recent months, the manager and staff team have looked in detail at how they consult with the young people accessing the service. The process has enabled the staff team to involve young people in a range of decisions. Young people recently requested the lounge area to be moved around this has enabled more activities to be able to take place. On observation, young people were enjoying this change and able to have a fun time and also be involved in activities tailored to their individual needs. The home has developed an 'achievements tree' this displays various examples of the progress young people have made in areas such as behaviour and independence. This has resulted in further enhancing young people's self-esteem and confidence.

Record keeping in relation to physical intervention and medication have been strengthened. Restraints logs are now bound to ensure they are appropriately secure so they cannot be tampered with after an event. The manager now monitors the medication log book to ensure consistency is achieved. There have been no discrepancies found in recent months.

Young people are protected through the implementation of a range of risk assessments. These now include reasons for restriction to some parts of the building. 'Talking switches' are also in place around the home to enable the young people to request areas of the home they would like to access.

Staff continue to benefit from regular team meetings and group opportunities to discuss the needs of the young people. They receive regular training in a range of areas specific to the young people currently accessing the service. The training coordinator has looked at the current induction package to ensure it relevant and is confident it now includes all the required information. The manager has further revised this package following feedback from staff.

Care planning documentation has been further improved. Young people's 'this is me' plans include a range of information in relation to staffing levels and communication; individual needs are identified and well understood by staff. At the last inspection, a recommendation was made in relation to ensuring consent forms for medication and

first aid were signed and to clearly show the documentation specifically relates to medical consent. The home has made some progress; they have compiled a template and some have been sent to parents. This has not been fully implemented therefore this recommendation is restated.

The manager and staff team have young people's well-being at heart and promote their achievements. Staff provide clear boundaries within a caring environment with a real focus on ensuring the young people have fun while visiting the home and there is a commitment to providing a good service.

Areas for improvement

Recommendations

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

- ensure consent from a person with parental responsibility is clearly documented on each child's file. This specifically relates to permission for staff to administer first aid and medication. (Volume 5, Statutory Guidance, para 2.54)

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*.