

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspector	Linda Leeder
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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

This short-break centre is run by a registered charity. It offers overnight short-break care places for up to five children and young people aged from 5 to 17 years with learning disabilities, who may also have physical disabilities. Day care is also offered on the same site for children and young people with similar needs.

Progress

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

At the last inspection in January 2012, the overall quality rating for the service was judged as good, with five requirements and three recommendations made. Progress has been made since the last inspection and all of the requirements and most of the recommendations have been met.

The registered person was required to compile a Statement of Purpose which consists of matters listed in schedule 1 of the regulations. They have done this. The registered person occasionally offers care beyond a short-breaks service where this is in the child's best interests. The service has provided robust and specific care plans for young people and has consulted with appropriate agencies to ensure that these plans are moved forward to produce good quality future care for young people. The outcomes for young people have been positive. and the service provides good individualised care.

At the last inspection it was required that the registered person update the policy intended to safeguard young people. The registered person has updated the safeguarding policy. This now supports staff's good knowledge and understanding of the policy and systems and ensures that young people continue to be safe.

Since the last inspection the registered person has prepared and implemented a policy for the prevention of bullying. The new policy sets out the procedure for dealing with an allegation of bullying; bullying is discussed in general terms at young peoples meetings. However bullying is not a problem at the home and young people generally get on well together.

At the last inspection it was required that the registered person has a written record in a volume kept for the purpose of the use of any measures of control, restraint or discipline. The registered person has provided a new and excellent recording format for measures of control, restraint and discipline. The recording policy has been discussed with all staff and will continue to be discussed with staff during supervision. The staff are knowledgeable and skilled at managing challenging behaviour.

The registered person was required to establish and maintain a system for monitoring matters set out in regulation 34, Schedule 6 to improve the quality of care provided to young people. The Registered Manager has devised a good quality system for monitoring the care provided by the home.

There were three recommendations made at the last inspection that relate to staffing matters. These included ensuring that vetting and recruitment checks are carried out; ensuring that staff have a minimum level 3 Children and Young People Workforce Diploma and ensuring that all staff have access to support and advice in regular supervision. Staff now receive good quality and supportive supervision on a regular basis. All recruitment and vetting checks have now been completed on all staff.

The recommendation regarding the qualification level of staff will continue. Although the registered person has made enquiries about the enrolment of staff onto the Children and Young People Workforce Diploma, sufficient progress regarding staff qualifications has not been made. However, the registered person recognises the important role that both training and supervision play in providing quality services for children and young people. In a short period, the registered person has made considerable effort to improve policy and monitoring systems of the young people's care which has ensured positive outcomes for young people.

Areas for improvement

Recommendations

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

- ensure all existing care staff have attained a minimum level 3 qualification. All new staff engaged from April 2011 are to hold the level 3 Children and Young Peoples Workforce Diploma which must include mandatory social care units; or be working towards the Diploma within 6 months of confirmation of employment. (NMS 18.5)