

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC025395
Inspection date	07/03/2013
Inspector	Maria McGranaghan
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	14/01/2013
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Service information

Brief description of the service

The home cares for up to 25 children and young people from birth to aged 17 years. The home is divided into two houses close by one another. One house specialises in caring for children with learning disabilities. The other house cares for young people with emotional and behavioural difficulties, and there is a mother and baby unit within this house. The service is owned 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 **good progress**.

At the last inspection on 14 January 2013, the service was judged as good. At the time, the Registered Manager was asked to take account of two recommendations made to further improve the quality of care within the home.

The service is judged to be making good progress. Records are improved. Young people are encouraged to sign and comment on documentation regarding their overall care. This practice enables young people to gain ownership of the work with them in the home. Likewise, the 'missing from home' protocol has been further developed to ensure that all young people regardless of their age, ability or history have an up-to-date 'missing from care' plan. Consequently, there is a consistent approach to safeguarding all young people in the event they go missing from home.

Young people are happy, safe and settled in a home that provides consistent high quality care. Education attendance and attainment remains a strong focus within the home with staff ensuring that young people receive the best support and guidance in

order to achieve. Consequently, young people do achieve and this is seen through their growing confidence and self-esteem. They live in a home that meets their individual needs, including individualised bathrooms and a host of new outdoor play equipment. Staff truly understand the need for young people to play and express themselves in a safe and caring environment. As a result, the huge gardens are transformed into a place of fun and adventure for young people to explore.

The service is effectively monitored, meeting the requirements of Regulation 33 and 34. The manager and staff work closely together to ensure the appropriate checks of appliances and outdoor play equipment are reviewed and updated. Consequently, the home operates a safe and hazard-free environment for all young people and visitors. The home has a consistent and highly committed staff team with the knowledge and experience to work effectively with young people. Staff demonstrate a desire and enthusiasm to ensuring the best outcomes for young people and this is evident in the progress all young people make in the home.

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*.