

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC025395
Inspection date	28/03/2014
Inspector	Maria McGranaghan
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	09/01/2014
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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 17 years of age. 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; there is a mother and baby unit in 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 **satisfactory progress**.

The purpose of this visit was to assess the progress made since the last inspection and how any progress has improved the quality of care and potential outcomes for young people.

At the last inspection on 9 January 2014 the home was judged as being outstanding. At the time the registered manager was asked to take account of one recommendation made to further improve practice within the home.

The home is judged as making satisfactory progress.

The manager has taken suitable action to ensure the floor covering in the utility room of the sister property has been removed and replaced. Consequently, there are no further avoidable hazards identified within the home.

Young people benefit from structured routines enabling them to understand the plans for each day. They participate in a range of planned and unplanned activities, such as youth club, gym and visits to places of interest. Likewise, young people have made friends in the local community. Staff work hard to ensure relationships are formed between the families of friends and the home in order to maintain the safety of young people living in the home. Consequently, young people are safe, happy and settled in the home and have developed a sense of identity with their community.

The views and opinions of young people are respected in the home. Care is taken to ascertain young people's interests and aspirations in order to introduce goals and targets best suited to meet them. Likewise, young people are supported to have suitable contact with significant people in their lives. Relatives are invited to the home to share a family meal or activity and this ensures that young people are able to spend quality time with their families.

Young people's health and well-being is prioritised in the home. Health care plans clearly capture individual needs and are supported by a range of external professionals who work closely with the home. Consequently, young people receive the most appropriate support to work through some difficult emotional times in their lives and this enables them to take positive steps forward into their future.

Young people attend appropriate educational provisions and attendance is very good. Attainment is consistent because young people make progress in all subject areas. As a result, young people are extremely well supported by staff and teachers and this is reflected in the excellent outcomes achieved within education.

Young people are safe and their welfare is protected in the home. Thorough safeguarding systems are in place and work together with external agencies to ensure the most appropriate action is taken should a safeguarding concern arise. As a result, there have been no young people missing from the home since the last inspection.

The home shows the capacity to improve.

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*.