

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC025657
Inspection date	21/02/2012
Inspector	Cheryl Carter
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	03/08/2011
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Service information

Brief description of the service

This children's home provides respite care as well as medium- to long-term care for children aged seven years to under 18 years.

The home provides medium- to long-term residential care for up to four younger children and sibling groups and for a further three children aged between seven and 17 years on admission, who may have emotional, behavioural or learning disabilities.

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 overall effectiveness at the last inspection in August 2011 was judged as good. The areas for improvement identified at that visit included the updating of the Statement of Purpose and children's guide, to ensure there is a good quality learning and development programme, to ensure that all staff have personal development plans and to make sure that the home is always well-maintained and clean especially in relation to the carpets in the upstairs hallway. The home has made some progress in addressing the action and recommendations that were made. The Statement of Purpose and Children's Guide have been updated and sent to Ofsted. Training for staff relating to signs and symbols is ongoing and the process of appraisals has commenced in order to plan a training programme for the next year. The refurbishment and redecorating of the home has not yet begun although the manager of the home states that there is a plan to complete this in the new financial year. Meanwhile the carpets have been cleaned.

The Registered Manager is committed to continuous improvement and further areas of development were made since the last inspection. A review of staffing has taken place resulting in new staff being appointed which has strengthened the staff team, and activity worker has been appointed. As a result, staff can now spend more time undertaking direct work with children to ensure that the children are happy and safe at the home. Children have very good relationships with the staff, particularly their key workers and parents feel that they have staff who they can trust to keep their children safe.

Daily recordings have improved and the monitoring of the home according to Regulation 33 are undertaken monthly and reports are sent to Ofsted, but so far Ofsted has not received any Regulation 34 monitoring reports.

Areas for improvement

Statutory Requirements

This section sets out the actions which must be taken so that the registered person/s meets the Care Standards Act 2000, Children's Homes Regulations 2001 and the National Minimum Standards. The registered person(s) must comply with the given timescales.

Reg.	Requirement	Due date
34 (2001)	ensure that there is a system in place to monitor matters set out in Schedule 6 at appropriate interval and supply a copy of this report to Ofsted. (Regulation 34 (1)(a) and 34 (2))	30/03/2012

Recommendations

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

- ensure that the planned programme of redecoration and refurbishment of the home is completed in a timely manner. (NMS 10)

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)*.