

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	28/01/2013
Inspector	Joanna Heller
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	20/08/2012
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Service information

Brief description of the service

This home is one of a small number of residential services run by a voluntary organisation. The organisation provides a wide range of other childcare services. The purpose of the home is to provide long-term care and support for a maximum of four children or young people with severe learning and/ or physical 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**.

No young people were involved in this inspection as all of the young people were at school.

At the last inspection in August 2012 the home was graded as satisfactory overall with good quality of care and outcomes for young people. Two requirements and one recommendation for improvement were set at the last inspection. The manager has ensured that the requirements set have been addressed, however the recommendation remains outstanding and will be reviewed at the next inspection.

The requirements set related to ensuring robust fire precautionary arrangements and developing a children's guide in a suitable format. The manager has since the last inspection, reviewed the homes fire risk assessments ensuring that the complex needs of young people are reflected. Fire doors are now closed unless linked to magnetic closures. The arrangements for exiting the side gates in the event of a fire are now appropriate with spare keys being stored in a key safe. These measures

serve to ensure that fire precautionary arrangements in the home ensure young people and staff are safeguarded from fire in line with current good practice.

The manager has developed a pictorial children's guide which will aid young people have a better understanding of the home and the services available.

The recommendation made at the previous inspection related to ensuring formal written agreements are in place with parents and the placing authorities in respect to the locking of the front door. The manager has reviewed the practice of locking the door with parents and placing authorities who consistently feel that this is necessary to safeguard the vulnerable young people. However, the verbal understandings reached have yet to be formally recorded and incorporated into young people's care plans.

The quality of care in the home remains strong. Young people benefit from highly personalised care which meets their individual needs. Young people have excellent school attendance and continue to grow and develop their awareness of the world around them. Young people enjoy strong relationships with staff who know them well. This means that staff have detailed awareness of their individual communication methods and what may trigger distress. This minimises situations which may unsettle young people and trigger any challenging behaviour. Incidents are now extremely rare and young people live together harmoniously. Any unsettled behaviour is redirected to prevent it escalating.

Young people are healthy and staff ensure that regular preventative health checks take place. Staff are proactive in monitoring young people for any changes which may indicate impending ill health and ensure that when young people are ill they are competently and sensitively cared for.

Young people are able to enjoy a wide range of activities such as theatre trips, outward bound trips as well as swimming and meals out. All of the young people really enjoyed their summer holiday and are reminded of this by the photos displayed in the home. The cultural and spiritual festivals of all the young people accommodated are celebrated. Young people enjoy parties to celebrate their birthdays and families and friends are integral to this. For example, at one recent 18th birthday, the home hosted a party for around 50 family and friends of the young person.

The building is suitable to meet the complex individual needs of the young people. Each of the young people has their own highly personalised bedroom. Any adaptations and equipment required to meet young people's individual needs are provided. Some upgrading of the interior décor is underway to enhance the accommodation currently provided.

A significant number of young people are now 18 years or above and the impact of this on the group is considered. Plans for transition into suitable adult accommodation are being developed in partnership with young people, their families and placing authorities. Staff demonstrate a deep commitment to ensuring that

young people move on to adult care homes, which are high quality and will fully meet their complex needs. For example, staff are strong at articulating any concerns about any prospective placements ability to meet young people needs. Staff are also confident to challenge any inaccuracies in assessments. Staff plan to support young people in understanding the moving on process through using pictorial supports. Staff arrange regular visits for young people to their new homes. They ensure that the transition is gradual, moving forward at a speed which is led by the young person, therefore, minimising the impact of change.

The role of the manager and staff are currently in transition. Staff are being supported to take on more responsibility which promotes individual professional development. Closer relationships are developing between the organisation's residential services. This benefits all services through the cross fertilisation of ideas and promoting development of practice.

Areas for improvement

Recommendations

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

- ensure physical restrictions on normal movement within or from the home are not used unless this is necessary to safeguard children and promote their welfare and development. Such measures are used only where agreed with the responsible authority and parents. Such restrictions for one child do not impose similar restrictions on other children. (NMS 10.4)

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*.