

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC030677
Inspection date	04/02/2014
Inspector	Diana Waters
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	26/09/2013
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Service information

Brief description of the service

This home provides short breaks for children and young people who have a learning and/or physical disability, who may require nursing care and are living at home with their family.

The home is jointly funded by a Primary Care Trust and a local authority, and managed by the Children and Young People's Directorate of the local authority. The home is registered to accommodate up to six children and young people, two of whom may be under eight years. Other services offered include day care, after school care and support groups.

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**.

At the full inspection of the home in September 2013, the overall quality rating for the service was good. The home has made satisfactory progress in addressing the requirements.

Although the service has not recruited any new staff since the last inspection, the manager has taken action to improve the quality of the recruitment procedures. The manager has compiled a comprehensive check list for use before appointment and these include full employment history, verifications of why employment ended and telephone checks undertaken on references.

There have been no notifications since the last inspection. However, the manager is fully aware of the schedule and the reasons to notify the chief inspector.

The Statement of Purpose has been updated to include details of the nurse call system.

The recommendation to replace the high wire fencing to the side of the house in keeping with a domestic property has not been undertaken. Quotes have been received, but other pressing improvements including relocation of the downstairs toilet was prioritised from this year's budget.

The standard of care remains very good, with excellent relationships between young people and the staff team. The service continues to meet individual needs well and staff involve young people in the local community; for example going out to the Christmas markets and participating in outdoor pursuits at the local climbing wall. Improvements to the home continue to be made and the new bathroom project with bubbles and flashing lights is now in operation; this benefits young people and promotes relaxation. Celebrations of significant events are encouraged and displays are kept up to date. Many photos are included in young people daily logs and activities and these are shared with parents, enabling parents to feel informed. Young people continue to enjoy a range of activities which benefit them and staff share responsibility for key tasks.

The role of the social worker is now embedded and benefits young people through closer involvement with other professionals and parents, ensuring consistency of care. The administrator's role is key in providing secure knowledge that day to day tasks are competently undertaken, so enabling the manager to focus on development areas. This ensures the smooth running of the home. Parents report satisfaction with the service and have enjoyed invitations to watch their young people participate in the nativity play and to socialise with other parents.

Transitions are well managed, both as young people are introduced to the service and with young people moving on to adult services. Helpful information sharing, joint working and behaviour management strategies are readily shared to benefit young people, to help understand and manage change in a positive way.

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*.