

## Inspection report for children's home

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| <b>Unique reference number</b> | SC030677        |
| <b>Inspection date</b>         | 22/02/2012      |
| <b>Inspector</b>               | Sharron Escott  |
| <b>Type of inspection</b>      | Interim         |
| <b>Provision subtype</b>       | Children's home |

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| <b>Date of last inspection</b> | 24/08/2011 |
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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

|                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Good progress</b>         | 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. |
| <b>Satisfactory progress</b> | 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.                                  |
| <b>Inadequate progress</b>   | 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 full inspection in August 2011, the home was judged as good overall with quality of care for young people being outstanding.

Since then, the home has made good progress to maintain and improve standards for children and young people during their short stay. In addition, the home has suitably addressed the one requirement and three of recommendations raised previously, successfully detailing the home's aims and objectives within the Statement of Purpose. This now informs children, parents and placing social workers of the care and services provided. The home has made good progress in developing internal consultation processes and children and young people are freely exercising choices.

The home has carefully considered how to seek views and meaningful consultation with young people, parents and social workers to enable them to be involved in care planning and the home development. Individual strategies and options have been identified in order to meet each young person's preferred method of communication and cognitive ability. The development and use of photographs and symbols have enabled some young people to take a more active role in making daily choices, specifically at mealtimes.

Photographic memorabilia and art work are displayed within the home that contribute to the homely and welcoming environment and evidence the positive experience children and young people have during their stays. Additional resources have been introduced that provide children and young people with a dedicated area in the home to express their current thoughts and feelings using symbols. This has contributed to the reduction of incidents. Group key work meetings are also being used to allow young people to plan and reflect on their stay. In addition, the introduction of regular parents' evenings has proved to be successful. Information exchanging has provided parents and carers with knowledge and skills, and ensures the children's and young people's stays are positive and memorable experiences. The home has also promoted further communication systems by producing a quarterly news letter; this provides information on changes pending, any celebrations, and successes achieved during this period.

A visiting social worker commended the care staff for their dedication and commitment to the children and young people, stating, 'The staff always go the extra mile; parents have confidence that their children are looked after well and their needs met.'

Confidential information relating to children and young people is now appropriately stored in the staff office. Care planning documents have been reviewed and have assisted staff to have an overview of current needs as well as targets agreed with parents and social workers. Staff members say these documents provide a quick reference and adequately detail care needs, in one document, to enable them to meet the needs of the children and young people.

The home's records confirm that they do not have any missing from home episodes; in the event this should occur, the staff team now has a detailed procedure to follow in managing and reporting incidents that follow the Runaway and Missing from Home and Care protocols (RMFHC).

The Registered Manager meets regularly with peers and senior shift leaders to discuss strategic issues and developments for the home. Regulation 33 reports, and their findings, are good and continue to assess the home's function against the Statement of Purpose, evaluate documents and records, monitor Schedule 6 requirements and interview staff.

There are notable improvements in staff retention, reduction in sickness and, as a result, young people's behaviour has improved, communication systems are more

effective, and children's and young people's involvement and participation in daily life provides a positive experience during their stay. Photographs on display are being used to document young people's involvement in activities and development of life skills.

Children and young people continue to enjoy visiting this home. All young people have made good progress across the outcome areas since the last inspection with some young people making significant progress resulting in an increase in the frequency of stays. Visiting parents commented that the progress their child has made has been significant. They gave an example of their child entering the building and sitting calmly and comfortably playing with a jigsaw. They also stated communication from the home is excellent and care staff have supported them to manage behaviours at 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 (March 2011)*.