

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	25/03/2014
Inspector	Nicholas Murphy
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	14/08/2013
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Service information

Brief description of the service

The home provides accommodation for up to eight children who have learning disabilities. It is operated by a local authority. Most children come for short breaks under shared care arrangements, although some live here permanently.

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 **good progress**.

The home received a full inspection in August 2013, when its overall effectiveness was judged to be good. One statutory requirement and several recommendations were made in relation to shortfalls in practice. The Registered Manager has taken action to address all these issues.

The home's recruitment and vetting checks have been revised to make them compliant with regulation and guidance. As a result, people who may be unsuitable to work with children are not employed. The record of physical intervention is now completed fully in accordance with requirements. This ensures that children are kept safe and that there is full accountability for the use of restrictive measures. The Registered Manager has revised the format and content of residential placement plans. Within these plans, placement objectives are clearer and link directly to each child's assessed needs. For example, the day to day actions which are necessary to maintain children's health are spelt out in detail. The Registered Manager has ensured that behaviour management plans follow relevant government guidance. This assures parents and placing authorities that staff safely manage challenging behaviour while fully upholding children's rights. Two other recommendations in

relation to records of staff training, and monitoring of the home's performance, have also been addressed.

Children are making good progress here. There are measurable improvements in children's behaviour and social learning as a result of their placement. For example, in one recent looked after review the comment was made that, 'The child has made massive leaps in the home and is managing well in sticking to routines.' A parent said of her child, 'He is so happy coming here, and he has come on so well.' The home keeps children safe. There are always sufficient staff on duty to provide the appropriate level of supervision. This means that children have the opportunity of a wide range of activities which they find stimulating and enjoyable. For example, a group of children has recently had a trip to Euro Disney. The home has recently introduced an additional level of senior staffing. This gives more time for staff to update children's plans and other documents, which in turn enhances the impact of care programmes.

Staff are skilled in building and sustaining meaningful relationships with the children. They are able to redirect and diffuse unwanted behaviour before it becomes unsafe. As a result, the number of physical restraints has reduced significantly. Staff work positively with children to help them develop to their full potential. For example, some staff have been trained in the use of a recognised accreditation programme which promotes the development of children's personal and social skills. This has measurable impact. One parent said, 'I've seen a big difference in my child's self care skills. That's because the staff push the children and promote their independence.' Staff place great importance on enabling children to have a voice in how they are cared for, whatever communication difficulties they may have. This commitment to listening to children has been underlined by the recent involvement of the local authority's participation officer with the home.

The home is currently undergoing work to build two additional bedrooms with associated lounge and kitchen. This demonstrates the commitment of the registered provider to further improve the quality of care.

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*.