

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC031410
Inspection date	13/03/2013
Inspector	Janet Hunnam
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	11/12/2012
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Service information

Brief description of the service

This children's home is operated by the local authority. The service is registered to provide care and accommodation for up to seven young people with learning disabilities. It provides short break care and also longer term residential placements.

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**.

At the last inspection, the home was judged outstanding for overall effectiveness. There were no requirements or recommendations.

The home continues to maintain excellent levels of care for young people. Care plans are highly individualised and clearly identify young people's specific needs, vulnerabilities and support requirements. Young people continue to make good progress in their communication skills and levels of independence. The staff team is committed and highly skilled. They carefully consider the unique requirements of each young person and explore ways of ensuring positive outcomes for young people.

A new communication system, designed by staff, is in place. It has improved consultation with young people and enables them to express their views on menus, activities and staff, and to convey their feelings. This 'talking mat' also allows professionals to consult with young people with communication difficulties and ensure their opinions are taken into consideration in decisions affecting their lives.

Staff are enthusiastic about promoting young people's independence skills. Independence evenings allow young people to plan, shop and prepare food with appropriate support from staff. Young people have good opportunities to develop their life and social skills so they can achieve their full potential.

The home continues to be well resourced and provides a bright, homely environment for young people. For example: young people's bedrooms have been upgraded with new furniture and flooring; new dining furniture is in place; the safe and pleasant outside play area has new flooring; and young people benefit from a new interactive sensory mat to stimulate or calm them, which is great fun.

Staff training has a high priority. One day a month is dedicated to ensuring staff are up-to-date with training and have the skills required to meet young people's individual needs. Staff have a depth of understanding of young people's complex needs and are able to manage their behaviour successfully through sensitive strategies, which allows them to make progress. The safety and welfare of young people is at the centre of practice within the home.

The highly effective Registered Manager and experienced senior staff rigorously monitor the standard of care for young people. Monthly reports by an external visitor are part of a comprehensive quality assurance system to maintain high standards and promote positive outcomes for young people.

Young people are confident and happy at the home and have friendly, positive relationships with staff.

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*.