

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC031698
Inspection date	11/03/2013
Inspector	Janet Hunnam
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	26/11/2012
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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 eight young people with learning disabilities and physical disabilities. It provides short break care and some 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 as outstanding for overall effectiveness. There were no requirements or recommendations. The home continues to provide an excellent standard of care for young people. Experienced and committed managers and staff comprehensively identify young people's specific needs and tailor individual strategies to enable young people to make very good progress.

Led by a proactive and highly effective Registered Manager and deputy manager, the staff team continually strive to develop and improve the service. Currently the home is implementing a new communication system to allow young people to put forward their views and opinions relating to staff, menus, activities and their feelings more effectively to staff and professionals. The home is committed to involving young people in decisions about their care and seeking their views despite young people's communication difficulties.

Staff continue to focus on developing young people's independence skills so they achieve to their full potential. Young people are involved in planning, shopping and

helping to prepare meals. A new kitchen has recently been installed, enabling staff to work individually with young people to develop their skills in food preparation. Young people have particular individual targets to develop their daily living skills with consistent staff support to help them make progress.

Monthly monitoring of the home by managers continues to be rigorous and robust to maintain high quality of care for young people. Comprehensive monthly reports by an external visitor contribute to the quality assurance system, which ensures that the safety and well-being of young people are at the centre of practice within the home. Care plans and risk assessments are updated regularly, allowing young people to receive care and support to meet their changing and developing needs.

Staff are keen to extend young people's social experiences. Meticulous forward planning results in young people having suitable levels of staff support to participate in activities within the community. A well-planned training programme provides young people with staff to care for them who are knowledgeable and skilled in meeting their complex needs. Young people develop positive, trusting relationships with staff giving them a sense of safety and security within a nurturing environment. Since the last inspection, the home has been significantly refurbished. The main kitchen has been refitted, all rooms redecorated and bathrooms up-dated. The home provides a bright, warm and homely environment for young people.

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*.