

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC031698
Inspection date	12/02/2014
Inspector	Janet Hunnam
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	31/10/2013
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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 for short breaks.

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 carried out in October 2013, the home was judged as outstanding with no requirements or recommendations.

Young people continue to benefit from high quality care provided by a committed staff team. The Registered Manager and deputy manager provide strong leadership and effective management to maintain high standards and promote positive outcomes for young people. Management have smoothly implemented changes to the home's admissions policy since the last inspection. The home now only accommodates young people for short breaks.

The Registered Manager is proactive in seeking feedback on the service provided from staff and young people within the home and from external parties to secure continuous improvement. Such views contribute to an on-going cycle of development to ensure the service meets young people's needs and provides optimum opportunities for young people to make progress. An external professional commented that they are impressed with the calm approach and attitude from staff when young people are anxious and distressed. 'Staff are able to calm situations very

quickly.' They also remarked how impressed they are 'with the way staff are using additional communication methods' with young people. The home establishes positive and constructive links with specialist health professionals to enable staff to provide thorough and specialist care to meet some young people's complex needs.

Staff recognise the specific vulnerabilities of young people and measures are in place to protect their safety and welfare. External doors are locked as an essential safeguarding measure to protect young people but there is no risk assessment in place to demonstrate that this is a necessary measure.

New systems are in place for the initial training of new staff and for training staff to the required Level 3 Diploma standard. The local authority is providing workshops for staff to ensure they achieve the knowledge and skills to competently care for young people within the required period.

The home has a well-equipped outdoor play area and outdoor musical instruments have been added providing interesting and stimulating outside activities for young people.

Young people share extremely positive relationships with staff. Staff are skilled in de-escalation techniques enabling them to manage potentially difficult situations confidently and calmly. There have been no recorded incidents of physical intervention since the last inspection. Individual, detailed care plans and risk assessments, together with high staff ratios ensure young people are safe.

Areas for improvement

Recommendations

To improve the quality and standards of care further the service should take account of the following recommendation(s):

- ensure that physical restrictions on normal movement within or from the home are not used unless this is necessary to safeguard children and promote their welfare and development. Such measures are only used where agreed with the responsible authority and, if appropriate, the parents. (NMS 10.4)

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*.