

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	21/03/2012
Inspector	Janet Hunnam
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	05/12/2011
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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)*.

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.

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.

Progress

Since their previous inspection the service is judged to be making **good** progress.

The last inspection was carried out in December 2011 and the provision was judged to be outstanding. At this inspection one requirement and one recommendation were made. These have been addressed and the home has made good progress since the last inspection.

A report following the monitoring of the home by the Registered Manager is sent to Ofsted ensuring there is evidence of a regular review of recording processes and compliance with policies. This also enables the Registered Manager to identify patterns and trends and address any issues raised through this monitoring process.

Staff plan activities for young people well in advance and include leisure activities and trips in the community. Consultation takes place with each young person to find out what activities they like and what they choose to do. Leisure activities in the community have included a theatre trip, walks in the woods, a football match and a visit to a tea room. Young people accompany staff to the supermarket each week to help with the weekly shopping for the home. These activities provide stimulating opportunities to extend young people's experiences and promote their development. Each young person has an activity folder which records their activities in symbols and photographs. Young people have their own activity plan in a symbol format.

Care plans are in a child-friendly format and written from the young person's view point. These 'All About Me' plans are simple to understand but provide all the relevant information. They enable staff to consult with young people and involve them to a greater degree in their care plan.

Consultation with young people is a strength of the home. A member of staff with specific responsibility for developing consultation processes with young people is embedding practices ensuring young people have choice and their views are taken into account.

Staff value the training they receive which is of a high standard. They are supported by the Registered Manager who is accessible and who provides effective guidance. A good standard of monitoring is in place with detailed Regulation 33 reports

highlighting any areas the manager needs to address. The staff team is motivated and enthusiastic and strive to meet the individual needs of young people. Staff work proactively with other agencies including health and education to promote positive outcomes for young people.

Young people continue to make excellent progress in developing their skills and confidence and accessing a wide range of experiences.