

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	13/03/2013
Inspector	Keith Riley
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	26/06/2012
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Service information

Brief description of the service

The home provides respite care and accommodation for up to five children with learning or physical disabilities. The home is operated by a local authority and is fully equipped to deal with the needs of the children.

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 in June 2012 the home was judged as outstanding for overall effectiveness. One recommendation was made and this has been met. Significant progress has been made in arranging for staff to undertake formal safeguarding training approved by the Local Safeguarding Children's Board. Staff now complete this training as well as on-line refresher training to ensure the on-going safety and well-being of children at the setting.

The staff team offer a wealth of knowledge and experience which is implemented in practice to improve outcomes for those in their care. This is a highly resourceful service that benefits children and their families. It is focused on children in all aspects of their care, support and intervention. Children accessing the service continue to receive an exceptional standard of care which successfully addresses their individual and complex needs. Parents speak very highly of the service and are extremely happy with the care their children are receiving. Staff continue to use innovative and imaginative methods, such as interpreting eye pointing, to get the views of the children in their care. Staff are well trained, for example in the administration of emergency medication, to meet the complex health needs of all the

children placed at the home, including those with rare disabilities.

Staff are keen to extend children's social experiences. Meticulous forward planning results in children who struggle with social integration, due to their disability, successfully accessing activities within the community. Other children, for example those with physical disabilities, are able to access cycling using modified equipment. Since the last inspection the home has successfully used a swimming pool at a local school. As a result, children who have previously not been able to access swimming in a public pool are now able to go swimming on a regular basis.

Children continue to benefit from staying in a home that is well maintained and decorated. Consents and agreements are in place for any monitoring, such as audio monitors in some rooms, necessary for safeguarding. Children with severe communication difficulties are enabled to give their view on the décor, for example the preferred colour for their room. Children, including those on the autistic spectrum, live in a low arousal environment and their anxieties are minimised.

The Registered Manager has a development plan in place with strategic aims to continually improve the quality of care in line with the Every Child Matters outcomes for children. There has been excellent progress against the plan, for example in extending the range of activities available to children and access to an advocacy service specialising in children with disabilities. There is very effective internal monitoring, such as the analysis of incidents. The Registered Manager has recently introduced further monitoring, such as meal-time behaviour records and leavers' feedback forms. This means there is clear feedback into practice and the immediate and on-going needs of each child are under constant review. However, some reports that are completed in accordance with reviewing the quality of care are not sent to Ofsted as recommended in statutory guidance. This has no negative impact on the children.

This is an outstanding service that strives for continual improvement. For example: a representative from a children and adolescent mental health service now attends the staff team meeting on a regular basis; and the Registered Manager appropriately challenges other professionals, for instance to ensure there is no restriction of liberty of any child as a matter of routine.

Areas for improvement

Recommendations

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

- complete Regulation 34 reports at six monthly intervals and send a copy of every report to Ofsted within 28 days of completion. (Children Act 1989 statutory guidance Volume 5, point 3.14)

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*.