

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC032439
Inspection date	27/03/2013
Inspector	Bridget Goddard
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	30/10/2012
--------------------------------	------------

© Crown copyright 2013

Website: www.ofsted.gov.uk

This document may be reproduced in whole or in part for non-commercial educational purposes, provided that the information quoted is reproduced without adaptation and the source and date of publication are stated.

Service information

Brief description of the service

This service offers short breaks for up to eight children and young people of either gender who have a severe learning and physical disability and/or complex health needs. This service is provided by a local authority and is available to families from across the county.

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 full inspection in October 2012, the home was judged as good overall and outstanding in leadership and management. Four recommendations were made at that inspection, and the home has successfully addressed all of these to varying degrees. The home is making good progress.

The first recommendation concerned ensuring that children and young people's needs are systematically promoted. Although children and young people clearly make progress in different ways, the home does not routinely monitor and promote this. The home now has a careful focus on a particular group of young people, and their progress is clearly tracked and monitored. This has resulted in some outstanding outcomes for this group of young people particularly, and generally better outcomes in specific areas for all children.

The second recommendation concerned ensuring that children and young people communicate their views on their care and support. Staff know individual children and young people well and so are familiar with their likes and dislikes. They have

developed this knowledge, ensuring that young people have their own personalised drawer with specific information about their preferences. This means that some staff who may rarely see children and young people, who stay infrequently, now have a quick and easy way of identifying their preferences. Some children and young people also now carry their 'communication passport' around with them. Staff have also established an occasional-meeting format for children and young people, so that there are opportunities to seek their preferences in such areas as décor or holiday activities.

The third recommendation concerned ensuring that individual children and young people's views are fully taken into account at reviews. The home has developed a photo diary of individual children and young people demonstrating their pleasure at certain activities, and their skills. These have been shared with parents and are planned to use at reviews, alongside formal reporting. This means that all those at the review can see what children and young people enjoy and are good at doing.

The final recommendation concerned record keeping. Children's files can be large and information is not always easy to find quickly. The Registered Manager is committed to addressing this and has discussed it in a staff meeting. She has also made a recent staff appointment to help in this area among others. In the interim, the children and young people's personalised drawers are promoting easier access to everyday information.

Since the last inspection, the leadership team have also introduced regular yoga sessions into the home. This has had a very positive effect on the young people involved. Some young people with physical restrictions enjoying stretching and deep breathing, and other young people have benefited from working closely with other people and focusing on this task. Children and young people are also strongly encouraged to do art activities, and some do drumming. An accredited dog-patting and playing scheme have made an introductory visit to the home and met some young people; the home are also buying some guinea pigs. These initiatives are based on best practice in working with young people with particular communication and behavioural complexities.

At the last inspection, the home had just begun working closely with one of its feeder schools, and focusing on behaviour management. This project has now been reviewed, and has had an excellent impact on reducing young people's challenging and unhappy behaviour. Part of the project has been working closely with staff; generally, staff confidence has increased and there has been a decrease in serious incidents. This project has been so successful that further initiatives have just started with a number of other schools.

These highly positive developments demonstrate that this home is continuing to offer a very high standard of care to children and young people and is able to demonstrate some excellent outcomes.

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*.