

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC032565
Inspection date	02/02/2013
Inspector	Trevor Hall
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	09/08/2012
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Service information

Brief description of the service

This home is operated by a local authority. The home is registered as a children's home for up to six young people at any one time. The service offers short break care only for children and young people with severe learning and/or physical disabilities. It is only open at weekends, or for short periods during the summer holidays.

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**.

The centre was judged as outstanding at the last full inspection in August 2012. No statutory requirements or recommendations were made at that inspection. In the intervening period, the centre has continued to provide respite care of excellent quality. As a result, young people and their families continue to enjoy improving outcomes. They benefit from a resource that is warm and nurturing. The staff team are dedicated and skilled in their practice and provide individualised, complex care for young people with severe learning and physical disabilities.

The centre has continued to develop care practice and make improvements. The staff team are appropriately knowledgeable about each young person's individual needs and have access to well-maintained, up-to-date care records. This enables the team to be more prepared for the young people's visits, improves communication between agencies and allows an effective contribution to the young people's care plans.

The young people enjoy the benefits of staying in a safe environment. There are

regular checks on all safety equipment, and warning or alarm systems, and all equipment is covered by appropriate service and maintenance contracts. Staff undertake regular fire drills and fire alarm tests and the centre has an up-to-date and extensive fire risk assessment. Staff have attended appropriate medication administration training and know well the procedures for medication administration and storage. They maintain comprehensive medication records.

The centre continues to provide young people with a warm nurturing environment in which to have short-term respite care away from their families. Young people are safe, and have opportunities to socialise with their peers and enjoy a variety of activities and experiences. Each young person is treated with respect and dignity; it is clear that young people enjoy their respite care experience. The integration of equality and diversity in practice and records is good. Young people receiving respite care are cared for in line with their individual needs as identified in their respite care plan. Staff are caring and knowledgeable and make every effort to ensure that young people are actively involved in the life of the centre. The relationships between staff and young people remain excellent.

The Registered Manager ensures young people enjoy consistency of care whenever possible. They are looked after by familiar staff; this ensures that young people build up relationships and enjoy a positive experience. Consequently, they are more comfortable and relaxed. The Registered Manager has responsibility for overseeing the composition of groups accessing the service and works hard to ensure compatibility. This enables matching of young people with other young people who have similar needs, enabling all to maximise their individual experiences during their stay.

Staff are highly motivated. They report that they are well supported by the centre's manager and that they are given ample access to appropriate training. The quality of care is of an exceptionally high good standard; it was sensitive and nurturing in style and individually tailored to the often diverse needs of the young people. The staff group provide a warm welcoming and inclusive atmosphere which fosters within the young people feelings of safety and security.

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*.