

## Inspection report for children's home

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| <b>Unique reference number</b> | SC032565        |
| <b>Inspection date</b>         | 10/02/2014      |
| <b>Inspector</b>               | Trevor Hall     |
| <b>Type of inspection</b>      | Interim         |
| <b>Provision subtype</b>       | Children's home |

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| <b>Date of last inspection</b> | 21/08/2013 |
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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

|                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Good progress</b>         | 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. |
| <b>Satisfactory progress</b> | 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.                                  |
| <b>Inadequate progress</b>   | 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 good at the last full inspection in August 2013. Quality of Care and Outcomes for young people were considered to be outstanding, however, Leadership and Management was judged to be adequate as the home had been without a registered manager for more than 26 weeks. No statutory requirements or recommendations were made at that inspection.

In the intervening period a new manager has been appointed and he successfully completed the registration process in December 2013. During this period the centre has continued to provide a very good respite care experience for the young people who use the service and, as a result, young people and their families continue to enjoy improving outcomes. They benefit from a resource that is warm and nurturing and the staff team are dedicated and skilled in their practice, providing individualised care for young people with severe learning and complex physical disabilities.

The centre has continued to develop care practice and to make improvements; activities undertaken are more structured and linked to agreed areas for

development. The staff team are very caring and knowledgeable about each young person's individual needs and have access to well-maintained, up-to-date care records. All of the current staff have attended appropriate medication administration training and are familiar with the procedures for medication administration and storage. They maintain comprehensive medication records.

Excellent communication with outside agencies ensures that individual episodes of care are on the whole well planned. The recording of assessments of the potential impact of new admissions or new visitor to the home needs to be more robust in order to ensure that known risks are effectively communicated. Where risks are identified, behaviour management plans should be in place prior to young people visiting the home, to ensure sufficient staff awareness and to reduce risks to existing users of the service.

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.

The centre continues to provide young people with a warm and nurturing environment where they can benefit from 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 and 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 home's new Registered Manager ensures young people enjoy consistency of care whenever possible. They are looked after by familiar staff and this ensures that young people build relationships and enjoy a positive experience. Consequently, they are more comfortable and relaxed. On this inspection the home was judged to have made good progress.

## **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 the home has and implements clear procedures for introducing children to the home, the staff and other children living there (this specifically refers to the need to conduct and record robust impact risk assessments, prior to the introduction of new children to the home) (NMS 11.1).

## 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*.