

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC033919
Inspection date	24/01/2012
Inspector	Tola Akinde-Hummel
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	25/07/2011
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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

The children's home is owned and run by a local authority and provides short breaks for children and young people with learning, sensory and physical disabilities. There are five beds available in the home to provide overnight and holiday stays.

Progress

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

The overall rating at the previous inspection was outstanding without requirements or recommendations. This short breaks service continues to provide a very high standard of care to children and young people. Children and young people enjoy their time in a safe, stimulating and supportive environment. Observations of children and young people demonstrate that this is a friendly, interesting and happy place. Children and young people are able to make choices about all aspects of their support and decisions about the home. Children and young people have chosen a charity they wish to support and are planning further fundraising events. Staff enjoy working with the children and young people, and their needs are at the centre of service planning and delivery.

The staff team have individual programmes of continuous development. All staff members are responsible for specific projects that will help develop children and young people and enhance their enjoyment during their stay. Staff are enthusiastic about this and take ownership of their projects as well as supporting their colleagues. The staff work well together which has a positive impact on managing the children and young people, particularly those who present challenging behaviour.

The management team is proactive in keeping abreast of current developments in the field of care. These are regularly shared with the staff team. The home has detailed plans in place to review and improve care practice. These are formally monitored quarterly by the manager and the deputy more regular monitoring takes place in team meetings and supervisions. Current developments include specialised training, an increased focus on a variety of communication methods, project work and transition planning with adults and children's services. Larger projects are being considered in partnership with health. Although the reviews relating to the quality of care and any improvements are clearly monitored, these have not been provided to Ofsted.

Areas for improvement

Statutory Requirements

This section sets out the actions which must be taken so that the registered person/s meets the Care Standards Act 2000, Children's Homes Regulations 2001 and the National Minimum Standards. The registered person(s) must comply with the given timescales.

Reg.	Requirement	Due date
34 (2001)	ensure a report in respect of any review conducted by the home is supplied to Ofsted. (Regulation 34 (1) (2) (3)	29/02/2012

Recommendations

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