

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	06/12/2011
Inspector	Ann-Marie Born
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	19/05/2011
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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

This home is run by the local authority and offers a short break service to children who are aged from four to 17 years. Young people using the service have learning disabilities and many also have physical disabilities. The home can accommodate up to seven children or young people at any one time. Children are able to use the service for several nights each month, usually for one or two nights at a time.

Progress

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

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This interim inspection focused on the progress made by the home since the last full inspection, in which the overall judgement was satisfactory. At the full inspection, outcomes for children, quality of care and equality and diversity practice were all judged good; safeguarding and leadership and management were judged satisfactory. A number of requirements and recommendations were raised.

The Registered Manager and staff have worked extremely hard on all these requirements and recommendations and all are now met.

A written policy sets out the procedure to be followed if any child or young person should go missing. It is fully understood by staff and linked to locally agreed protocols. There have not been any episodes of children or young people going missing.

Significantly improved recording systems ensure that following any measure of control a written record is made and children and young people have the opportunity to have their views recorded. These are effectively reviewed by the Registered Manager and information is used to examine trends. This enables staff to reflect and learn as well as informing their future practice. In addition, comprehensive written risk assessments on the home environment are carried out to identify any potential source of harm and a designated person ensures any allegations are managed effectively. These measures ensure children and young people are kept safe.

Children and young people are further safeguarded by energetic and enthusiastic management who ensure they continue to experience genuine care from a stable, nurturing and dedicated staff team. There is a strong commitment to training to ensure there continues to be a skilful staff team that matches the assessed needs of children and young people being referred and accommodated by the home.

Monthly house meetings and the innovative 'Wish List' book ensure that children and

young people's views and wishes are effectively captured and acted upon. The children's guide is available in alternative methods of communication and includes details of a range of independent advocates including the Children's Rights Director.

Children and young people's welfare is promoted by the robust systems in place to ensure their identified needs are met. Following each child's stay in the home, much improved care plans are reviewed and updated as necessary by their key worker; this ensures children's ongoing needs are highlighted with clear guidance on how these are to be met by staff.

The Registered Manager's motivation, with the enthusiastic support of the staff team, drives forward continuous improvement. This level of motivation is ensuring young people are enjoying their short breaks in a safe, caring and stimulating environment.

No breaches of regulation or shortfalls in meeting the national minimum standards are identified as a result of this inspection.