

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC035155
Inspection date	13/02/2014
Inspector	Stella Henderson
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	21/06/2013
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Service information

Brief description of the service

The children's home is owned and operated by a local authority. It is registered to offer a short breaks service to children and young people. Young people using the service have learning disabilities and many also have physical disabilities.

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 home received its last full inspection in June 2013 where the overall effectiveness was good. The home is judged to be making good progress at this inspection. The home remains a safe place for young people to enjoy respite care. It continues to be managed very effectively for the sole benefit of young people. At the last inspection the provider was asked to ensure that all children communicate their views on all aspects of their care and support with specific reference to recording the choices that young people make. The manager has met this recommendation. As a result, young people are choosing from a wider range of options about their day to day care and activities at the home. This has been achieved because of the focused and innovative work on understanding and developing young people's means of communication. This is developing into a key strength of the home. For example, each young person visiting the home now has a 'communication' bag. This contains their individual picture cards or objects of reference. This allows young people more opportunity to voice their wishes and views during the time that they spend on short breaks at the home. Young people who are more independent have 'sequence' cards, pictorial guides to tasks such as crossing the road and shopping. This helps them acquire the kind of

independence skills which will help them in adult life. For some young people very small improvements represent big achievements, such as sleeping through the night, feeding themselves or managing personal care.

Young people have enjoyed several 'first time' experiences. This has included camping out in the garden and going on short train journeys. Some young people have developed the confidence to take on new responsibilities within the home. For example, one young person is the representative for 'do-it-yourself' jobs around the home and another is the young person's safety officer. This helps young people to feel valued and gives them the opportunity to develop new skills.

Young people have benefited from an improved system of transition to adult services. This involves a gradual introduction and staged approach to adult respite services. This helps them become acclimatised to what is a significant change in their lives, and for staff in adult services better understand young people's needs.

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*.