

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC035247
Inspection date	23/12/2013
Inspector	Bill Drumm
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	16/07/2013
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Service information

Brief description of the service

This local authority children's home provides short-break care and accommodation for seven children with learning and physical disabilities, from nine years and up to 17 years of age.

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**.

At the last inspection in June 2013, the overall effectiveness rating of the home was good. The home has made good progress since the last inspection. Young people remain well-cared for and safe. Four young people seen at the time of the inspection appeared very happy. They were relaxed and confident with both staff and visitors.

One requirement and two recommendations were made at the last inspection. All have been fully met. No requirements or recommendations have been made as a result of this inspection.

Since the last inspection the manager has reviewed the home's admissions and discharge register. The register now contains full and accurate details of the address young people are admitted from and discharged to as well as the legal status under which the home provides accommodation to them. This contributes toward a full understanding of the young person's life.

The manager has also reviewed the home's Statement of Purpose. The Statement of Purpose now includes clear information about the home's missing from home policy

and procedures. This helps parents and placing social workers to understand what action the home will take in locating a young person if they go missing and how they can be kept safe.

The final recommendation was in relation to the home's risk assessments. The manager has reviewed the documentation used to record each young person's risk assessment. Information recorded is now clear, accurate and easily understood. Staff are fully aware of the real level of risk associated with the young person and the activities they wish to pursue. As a result, young people are kept safe.

The home has also made progress in a number of other areas. Young people, with the support of staff, have developed links with a local kennels for stray dogs. Young people have helped to collect unused blankets, these have then been donated to the kennels and dogs are able to use them for bedding. In the summer months it is hoped that young people can also assist in grooming and walking the dogs. This will help to increase their community presence, raise their self-esteem and self-confidence as well as provide them with exercise. Young people have also helped to raise money for a cancer charity by holding a raffle. This again helps to increase their community presence and self-esteem.

The home has also developed informal links with another children's home provider. Management and staff from both homes are scheduled to meet to share ideas and good practice. This helps the home to continue developing its service and to provide new and exciting opportunities to young people.

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*.