

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	03/01/2013
Inspector	Steve Pearson
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	05/10/2012
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Service information

Brief description of the service

The children's home provides short-break care and accommodation for up to six young people. The home is run by a local authority and is registered to care for young people with learning 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 **satisfactory progress**.

At the previous inspection Ofsted rated the overall effectiveness of the home to be good and made two requirements and three recommendations. The requirements have been met. Visitors to the home are now clear about registration status of the home because an up-to-date certificate of registration from Ofsted is now displayed in the foyer. There is also greater accountability for the use of restraints because the author of each entry in the restraint book now records their name and signature at the time of writing.

Progress has been made in meeting the recommendations made at the previous inspection, although these are not yet fully completed. Consequently, new staff are not yet fully informed for their role as they are still completing their induction training to the standards set by the Children's Workforce Development Council in the six month timescale. However, a structured induction procedure is now in place and a senior member of staff oversees this to ensure good progress is made.

The Registered Manager and staff have now updated some young people's risk

assessments to include a measure of likelihood and impact for hazards that may arise. This means these risk assessments are more comprehensive and easier to understand. However, not all of the risk assessments have been updated. This is acceptable given the short time since Ofsted made the recommendation and the significant number of young people who need such an update. The paintwork of the fascia boards at the rear roof is still in poor condition. Estimates for the work are being obtained but the work will not be done until the better weather arrives in Spring. This is acceptable. Other progress inside the home has taken place. For example, the landing and hallway upstairs have been redecorated and a new bath with soothing lighting has been installed. The staff said, 'the young people really enjoy having a bath now and are they are more settled at bath time.'

Since the previous inspection, all permanent staff have now become qualified to level 3 in the diploma for social care. This means the staff are knowledgeable and skilled in their work with young people. The home has an appropriate capacity for continuing improvement. For example, the staff hold regular house meetings for young people and actions from previous meetings are checked at the start of each fresh meeting. One unresolved issue had not been raised at the following meeting, so there is a risk it may not now be addressed.

Other procedures that demonstrate a capacity for continuing improvement are in place. An external visitor visits the home once a month and does a robust assessment of the quality of care and makes any necessary recommendations. They also assess whether their previous recommendations have been addressed. The Registered Manager also does monthly assessments of the quality of care and assesses compliance with requirements and recommendations made at Ofsted inspections. The Registered Manager and staff are keen to incorporate the views of young people in the running of the home. For example, as well as holding regular house meetings, they also seek their opinions through questionnaires, general discussions and in individual comments to the Registered Manager in the book known as the 'manager's book'. When a young person writes a comment in this book the Registered Manager guarantees a reply. These procedures help young people to feel included and valued and they help to ensure young people receive the care that is appropriate to their needs.

In the three months since the previous inspection, the home is continuing to maintain good levels of care and young people continue to achieve positive outcomes. The home has met the requirements made at the previous inspection and is continuing to address recommendations to completion.

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 safety and welfare is promoted in the home, specifically by ensuring

that risk assessments include an estimation of the likelihood and seriousness of hazards that may affect young people (NMS 4.1)

- ensure the home is well-maintained and decorated. In particular this refers to flaking paintwork on the barge boards at roof level at the rear of the house (NMS 10.3)
- ensure new staff complete the Children's Workforce Development Council's induction standards within 6 months of commencing their employment at the children's home. (NMS 18.3)

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*.