

## Inspection report for children's home

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| <b>Unique reference number</b> | SC035954        |
| <b>Inspection date</b>         | 27/03/2012      |
| <b>Inspector</b>               | Chris Scully    |
| <b>Type of inspection</b>      | Interim         |
| <b>Provision subtype</b>       | Children's home |

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| <b>Date of last inspection</b> | 25/01/2012 |
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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

|                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Good progress</b>         | 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. |
| <b>Satisfactory progress</b> | 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.                                  |
| <b>Inadequate progress</b>   | 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 service is able to provide short-term breaks or shared care for nine young people with emotional and/or behavioural difficulties, physical disabilities and learning disabilities. The home is owned and managed by the local authority.

### Progress

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

The home was last inspected in January 2012. The overall effectiveness of the home was judged to be good. Following the inspection five recommendations were raised. These related to: young people's health care promotion; the storage of medication; young people's bedrooms; the Statement of Purpose and the information recorded in some records.

Young people's health care needs are effectively supported. This is because the home ensures all information pertaining to their individual health care needs are clearly recorded. For example, epilepsy care plans clearly outline the likelihood of a seizure occurring, potential triggers and the action to take. This provides staff with a clear plan of action and means young people receive the right medical attention and support. Health care plans are much improved. These easy to read documents are individualised and effectively capture the uniqueness of each young person. Medication is appropriately stored within the home. The instigation of twice weekly checks ensures medication is appropriately administered, stored and is discharged to the appropriate persons. This is further supported by the creation of medication record books for permanent residents. Effective links with other health care professionals means the staff have the most up-to-date information about each young person.

The home is warm, bright and welcoming. Effective systems are in place to ensure any repairs or alterations are carried out quickly. For example, enclosing the top of young people's wardrobes and fitting privacy screens to some windows. This has improved upon young people's safety and effectively promotes their privacy and dignity. Young people's bedrooms are more homely. This is because young people are able to display their own art work. Transfers chosen by young people are to be put in their bedrooms once the walls have been repainted.

Parents/carers and placing authorities have a thorough understanding of the aims and objectives of the home. This is because the revised Statement of Purpose provides comprehensive information about the range of care and support offered to young people. The Statement of Purpose makes clear that it provides some permanent placements alongside the short breaks and details the maximum length of each short break. This promotes transparency and enables parent/carers and placing

authorities to plan each young person's stay.

The home has revised and improved upon a number of records and documentation. Young people are kept safe because risk assessments detail the potential risks and how these can be minimised. Risk assessments are written from the young person's perspective and are in an easy to read format. They effectively capture the individuality of each young person. Consequently, young people are safe as staff have a good understanding of any potential risks and the action to take to minimise them. For example, the action to take should a young person undo their harness while travelling in a vehicle.

The recording of accidents and incidents has improved in that most information is now recorded and confidentiality is maintained. However, the lack of space on the joint form means that information is not always clearly recorded. This part of the recommendation has not been fully met. Restraints are rarely used in the home. A record of restraints is in place. However, it does not consistently record who carried out the restraint, any medical treatment received by young people or staff and the effectiveness of the intervention.

There are no changes to the management or staffing in the home. Monitoring of the home by the independent person and Registered Manager effectively supports its ongoing development. The Registered Manager and staff continue to be proactive in exploring new ways of working to enhance the outcomes for young people. The Registered Manager has instigated additional checks of equipment brought in by and used by young people, such as wheelchairs. This ensures they remain in good working order and any issues can be quickly identified. A school co-ordinator is now in place. The Registered Manager says that although this is in its infancy they can already see the benefits of this. This is because staff are able to build a bigger picture of each young person's needs in various setting and how they are able to support their independence and learning.

Staff are working with the health service to support achievement of their enhanced healthier homes award. Young people and the cooks are being consulted as to how to improve the current menus. Displays are in place to support young people's understanding of the importance of having five portions of fruit and vegetables a day. These are compiled using language and symbols that all young people recognise and understand. Parents are pleased with the care and support provided by the staff. They say, 'I trust the staff 100%, they try so hard and go the extra distance'. 'It is a privilege to have such a service'.

## **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   |
|---------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| 17B<br>(2001) | ensure a written record of any restraints is made in a volume kept for the purpose of which shall include the name of the person using the measure, the effectiveness and consequence of the use of the measure and a description of any injury to the child or any other person and any medical treatment administered. (Regulation 17B (3) (e) (f) (g)) | 25/04/2012 |

## Recommendations

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

- ensure information about the young people is clearly recorded and in a way which will be helpful in the future, in particular the accident and incident records. (NMS 22.5)