

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC036186
Inspection date	03/12/2012
Inspector	Catherine Honey
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	28/06/2012
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Service information

Brief description of the service

The home is a children's respite service registered to a local authority. It provides respite and overnight care for up to eight children and young people with learning and/or 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 **satisfactory progress**.

At the previous inspection in June 2012, the overall effectiveness of this home was judged as good with one requirement and one recommendation.

The Registered Manager and management team have addressed both the requirement and recommendation made at the previous inspection. The log book for recording physical intervention has been amended and now reflects details of any methods used to avoid the need to use physical intervention. Consequently, records now reflect in more detail the events measures taken to deescalate or divert young people's behaviour before physical intervention is used. References for potential new employees are now verified by telephone. This means young people are further protected from having contact with unsuitable people through the home's recruitment procedures.

The Registered Manager and her team have continued to maintain the standard of care they provide and ensure good outcomes for young people. The staff team are dedicated to the care of the young people and continue to deliver highly

individualised care. Staff have continued to receive on-going training with specific training being sourced to meet the needs of young people who are new to the service. This includes specific healthcare training.

The home is visited regularly by a regulation 33 visitor. Actions set by the visitor are acted on and have helped to improve the quality of care provided. For example, the visitor noted targets set for young people in internal placement plans were not being reviewed regularly. Placement plans are now reviewed during staff supervision sessions, targets are discussed and amended if appropriate. Young people are supported to achieve good outcomes because of this.

The home feels homely and welcoming. There is an annual maintenance plan for the home and some bedrooms have been recently redecorated. Some internal doors leading to bedrooms, bathrooms and store cupboards are suffering from heavy wear and tear. They are heavily marked, scratched and scraped. This detracts from the homely and welcoming feel of the home. The maintenance of the doors has been noted as an area for improvement however it is unclear when this work will commence.

The Registered Manager submits reports to Ofsted in relation to regulation 34. These allow the regulator to monitor the home. However, reports do not reflect the views of young people, parents and placing authorities. This shortfall does not negatively impact on young people because their views are routinely heard through day-to-day conversations and discussions with parents and social workers. Specially prepared questionnaires which use a symbol format are regularly used to gain young people's views. Comments made by young people are acted on. For example, a young person requested a change in bedding and a personalised set is now used. Another young person requested a trip to a theme park and this was incorporated into activity planning. Young people are listened to and their wishes and feelings are acted on.

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
34 (2001)	ensure the system referred to in paragraph (1) shall provide for consultation with children accommodated in the home, their parents and placing authorities. (Regulation 34 (3))	31/12/2012

Recommendations

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

- ensure the home provides a comfortable and homely environment and is well maintained. This is in relation to internal doors. (NMS 10.3)

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*.