

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	19/03/2014
Inspector	Rosemary Chapman
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	10/09/2013
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Service information

Brief description of the service

The home is provided by a local authority. It is registered to care for up to eight children and young people with learning and/or physical disabilities, including sensory impairment, under short break arrangements.

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**.

This home was last inspected in September 2013 when its overall judgement was good. One requirement and two recommendations to improve practice resulted from that inspection. This inspection judges that the home has made good progress since that time. It has addressed the requirement and both recommendations. Young people continue to make progress and have good outcomes as a result of their short breaks at this home.

The requirement related to recording the duration of restraint. There have been two incidents which have required the use of physical intervention since the last inspection. Both of these have been recorded appropriately, thereby ensuring the manager has full information in order to be able to monitor more effectively and ensure physical intervention is being used only as necessary. As a result, children and young people are better protected.

One recommendation related to staff supervision. Staff are now supervised more regularly and the frequency is monitored more effectively so that any gaps are highlighted quickly. As a result, staff are having more opportunity to formally discuss

any issues with their supervisor, thereby ensuring they are well supported and are helped to care for children more effectively.

The other recommendation related to placement planning. There is now a system in place to improve the recording of day-to-day care and support so that it demonstrates the impact this has on outcomes for children and young people.

Children and young people enjoy their short breaks and benefit from spending time at the home. One parent said the home is, 'Fantastic' and her child is, 'Happy and content'. A community care worker commented on the positive impact using the service has had on the children and young people she is involved with. Of particular note is improved social interaction because young people are encouraged to access the community and do a number of activities. Of one young person, she commented that there had been, 'Huge progress' in independence and social skills.

Children and young people's outcomes improve because the staff work well in partnership with parents and other professionals so that their needs and targets are well known, and support is consistently provided. Parents and other professionals commented on the good communication and said that staff get to know the children and young people really well. Engaging in activities and going out into the community are areas which are promoted so that young people have good experiences. For example, young people go walking, swimming, out to the cinema, and out for meals. An external professional said, 'They do some brilliant things.' All risks are appropriately assessed so that children are safe and secure.

Young people make progress in relation to developing independence skills. All children and young people are encouraged to do as much as possible; for example, young people who previously did not eat solid food are now able to do this, and self-care skills improve. Behaviour is well managed through consistent support, and young people develop more socially acceptable behaviour. Because they are sharing a resource with other young people, they improve their social skills.

Staff are very committed to the children and young people they care for and support. They know them well and receive good training opportunities to ensure they provide care in a competent way. Some young people have complex care needs, so staff have regular training in, for example, moving and handling, tube feeding and medication.

Staff try to make the building as homely as possible. For example, they paint cartoons on the walls and place young people's own artwork there. There is a good display of anti-bullying information, which is an area which staff have been working on since the last inspection. Other areas of improvement relate to the implementation of the social pedagogy approach to children's care and support. Staff say that they are more child-focused as a result.

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*.