

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC037647
Inspection date	07/03/2013
Inspector	Pamela Nuckley
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	27/11/2012
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Service information

Brief description of the service

This is a local authority children's home providing short breaks for up to four children with learning or physical disabilities. The children staying for short breaks usually are not in the care of the local authority and their parents have the primary responsibility for their health care and education.

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 last inspection in November 2012 the overall quality rating of the service was judged as outstanding, with one recommendation made to improve the provision. The organisation is now supplying Ofsted with a six monthly quality monitoring report. However, the quality of the information provided within the report is insufficient. There is no evidence of consultation with young people, parents or professionals and there are standard statements recorded throughout. This does not show that the manager is robustly monitoring the quality of care given at the home. Further to this, these quality assurance reports, do not routinely review matters that have been identified within previous monthly audits as requiring attention. For example, the necessity for staff who are absent from staff meetings to read and sign the minutes. This could result in inconsistent care being provided.

The Statement of Purpose reflects the respite services offered to young people. A child-friendly children's guide informs young people of the running of the home. This includes things such as; the rules and expectations of the home. It also gives

information to young people on who they can contact if they are unhappy with any aspect of the service. However, the contact details for Ofsted are incorrect. This does not significantly impact on young people because there are good systems in place to ensure that young people can share any concerns or complaints with staff. They also have access to an independent visitor who visits regularly.

Young people receiving a service at this home use different forms of communication. Staff are fully aware of each young person's preferred communication and assist young people to have their voice heard. The 'Me at the Bungalow' placement plan informs staff of how the young person wishes to be cared for and photographs have now been introduced to capture how the young people have taken part in this process. This demonstrates the involvement of young people in all aspects of their care.

The home has fully involved young people in bidding for funds to improve areas such as the sensory room and garden. One young person took part in a mock production of 'Dragons Den' and secured funds for the garden area. Young people will be consulted on the design of the new murals for the enclosed area.

The manager has improved and developed consultation documents for young people, their parents and other professionals. Their feedback has informed how the service has developed. Several parents comments on the support given to young people include; 'Polite caring staff, always available to talk, friendly atmosphere', 'Loves her time here, gives her time with friends and a little break from her two younger sisters', 'I know she's safe and well cared for' and 'Staff are wonderful and always respect her for who she is.' This shows that parents are confident that their children are well cared for.

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 registered person shall establish and maintain a system for monitoring the matters set out in Schedule 6 at appropriate intervals. Specifically in relation to reviewing that actions identified as requiring attention in previous Regulation 34 reports have been met, including the need for staff to read and sign the minutes of staff meetings (Regulation 34 (1)(a))	30/04/2013
34 (2001)	ensure that the registered person shall establish a system for improving the quality of care in the children's home and specifically in relation to evidencing the quality of care provided in more detail (Regulation 34 (1)(b))	30/04/2013

4 (2001)	ensure that the children's guide includes the correct address and telephone number of the HMCI. (Regulation 4 (3)(c))	30/04/2013
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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*.