

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	19/03/2012
Inspector	Nick Veysey
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	14/11/2011
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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

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.

Service information

Brief description of the service

This is a local authority children's home providing short breaks for up to four children at any one time 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.

Progress

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

This children's home was judged as outstanding at the last inspection and is judged to be making satisfactory progress at this interim inspection. It has maintained an excellent quality of care and children and young people continue to achieve positive outcomes. However, it has not demonstrated that it has continued to develop the services it provides to improve outcomes for children and young people even further.

Children and young people continue to enjoy short breaks in a very caring, nurturing and stimulating environment. They said 'it's great', and enjoy the wide range of activities available and seeing their friends. Children and young people with additional needs, disabilities, and complex health needs have every opportunity to take part in fun and interesting activities in the community. They are encouraged to make informed choices about how they spend their time, what they have to eat, the level of support they receive, and their future care needs. Children and young people are supported to become more confident and develop their social and communication skills. For example, young people took part in a successful presentation to request funding for multi-sensory equipment. Also, they are developing their practical skills by being routinely involved in the running of the house. This includes taking part in shopping, helping to prepare meals, using money and taking suitable responsibility for their own personal care.

Children and young people's care is personalised and tailored to meet their specific needs, circumstances and interests. Staff are highly committed and show a high level of skill, understanding and knowledge in meeting children's complex needs on a daily basis. They are kind, friendly and determined that children and young people really have a good time during their stay. Staff make important contributions to reviews of children and young people's short breaks care plans. However, the written reports they produce for review meetings about children and young people's progress do not fully show how the short breaks plan is put into practice or the impact the service is having on children and young people's lives.

The manager provides strong leadership and the children's home is efficiently run. The manager has a clear understanding of the strengths of the service and the areas

that need to be developed, including improving children and young people's participation in planning their own care. For example, the children's home development plan identifies the need to make short break care plans more accessible to children and young people. This work is well under way and care plan documents have been developed that are more suitable to children and young people's level of understanding and communication needs. However, this has not yet been put into practice; as a result the impact of this development on children and young people's lives cannot be assessed.

Areas for improvement

Recommendations

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

- ensure the home contributes effectively to each child's short break care plan review by producing a detailed report that provides a comprehensive picture of the child's progress and how they are being cared for in line with their plan. (NMS 25.3)