

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	24/03/2014
Inspector	Tracy Murty
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	23/01/2014
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Service information

Brief description of the service

The home provides short breaks for young people with learning disabilities and physical disabilities. It provides short breaks for up to five young people at any time. A total of 43 young people use the service.

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**.

At the last full inspection in January 2014, the home was judged to be outstanding with no requirements or recommendations being made. The home has demonstrated continued improvement in quality of care and outcomes for children and young people.

The staff team provide very high levels of care and support to both young people and their families. A real strength of the home is its close partnership working with families and other involved agencies. This ensures that the specific and complex needs of each young person are considered and met during each short break stay. One social worker praised the staff team for how well they work together and with other agencies. They stated 'I am able to visit the home and take part in activities with young people and staff. This enables me to really see how young people benefit from their time here and how much they enjoy coming here.'

Young people benefit from being cared for by a highly competent and skilled staff team. Staff receive regular training and supervision to support them in their roles. One new member of staff stated how thorough the induction process had been for

them and how well it had prepared them for their role. New staff receive support from a dedicated mentor, who provides day-to-day help and assistance to new staff. Staff report high levels of satisfaction at the support and supervision provided to them by the managers and senior members of staff. Staff feel able to develop their skills and interests and have been supported to take on lead roles within the home.

Young people experience a wide range of social activities during their short break stays here. Staff identify local activities and carefully plan for what each young person may like to do during their stays. Clear targets are set for each young person, with staff ensuring that these are met. This has included supporting one young person to attend a local place of historic interest. Staff then take photographs of the young people involved in such activities. These are then placed on display in the home and also sent home for parents and family members to have as keepsakes. This provides families with a real sense of what their child has done during their stay.

Recently, the staff team arranged for a musician to come to the home, to play instruments and have a singing session with young people. Photographs were taken and put on display in the home following this event. This demonstrates the staff team's commitment to ensuring that young people have a range of opportunities and experiences. Parents report very high levels of satisfaction at the range of activities on offer, which have included trips out in the mini bus, meals out, visits to local places of interest and attendance at a local trampoline club.

Young people are kept safe during their stay in this home. Staff receive safeguarding training and plans and risk assessments for young people set out how their complex needs will be met. There have been no reported incidences of young people going missing from this home since the last inspection. This reflects the high staffing levels and skill of staff in ensuring that individual needs of young people are met at all times. Medication storage and administration is robust and undertaken by only suitably trained staff at all times.

Records relating to young people receive regular review and update by the staff team. They reflect the current and longer-term needs of young people and how they will be met. One health professional praised the staff team for the quality of their records. They stated that records maintained by the home had greatly assisted them in their assessment of young people's health needs.

The staff team work closely with education providers, in order to ensure that the transition from school to the home is smooth and well informed. Communication between the home, schools, parents and social workers is another real strength of the home. Staff also promote the full engagement of their independent visitor and advocacy service. Such professionals are invited to attend the home and take part in such activities as the music sessions. This enables those professionals and agencies to see first-hand what young people do during their stays and how much they enjoy their time at the home.

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*.