

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC042978
Inspection date	29/02/2012
Inspector	Amanda Ellis
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	13/07/2011
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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

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 from 5 years to 17 years of age. A total of 43 young people use the service.

Progress

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

At the last inspection in July 2011, the overall effectiveness rating for the home was judged to be outstanding. No requirements or recommendations were set at the last inspection.

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

Since the last full inspection the management of the home continues to demonstrate exceptional quality of care to the young people. The dedicated management team ensure a clear commitment to continual improvement. The experienced and highly skilled staff team ensure that young people receive high quality care which meets the individual needs of each young person. Young people benefit from significantly improved life chances as a result of their short break care within the home.

The short break service works effectively with parents, schools and the wider professional team to ensure that young people with complex learning and physical needs achieve in all aspects of their lives.

Young people benefit from care planning which is meticulous and addresses the young person's diverse needs. Young people and their families are fully involved in the planning process before young people begin to attend the home and throughout their periods of care. One parent commented how valuable this provision was for her and her family: 'It has been seamless in my son attending this provision. We can relax and know that he is receiving the best care...he is happy to go to the home and seems happy when he returns.'

The staff benefit from regular and responsive supervision and a rigorous training programme. This ensures that young people receive care from staff who feel confident, knowledgeable and fully supported. Staff are highly competent, skilled and experienced in working with children with complex learning and medical needs. Young people are provided with care which ensures rigorous attention is paid to meeting each young person's health needs.

The home provides a stimulating environment with a wide range of activities and sensory equipment. It has two lovely outdoor areas, which ensures that young

people can play both in and outdoors. Young people make many choices about their stay, including menus, activities and bedrooms. They choose their preferred bedroom and the room is personalised to their choosing for each short break.

Young people are kept safe during their stay. Risk assessments are current, safeguarding guidance and procedures are fully integrated and recruitment and selection of staff is rigorous. Behaviour management is effective and responsive to the individual needs of the young people. Positive behaviour is reinforced and challenging behaviours are skilfully managed by the staff. One social worker commented that 'the service fully meets the needs of the young people; procedures are followed and they keep young people safe.'

Young people who receive short breaks benefit from well developed monitoring and quality assurance processes. The management team implement and monitor a continuous development plan which ensures ongoing improvement.

The short break service respects and values young people and strives to offer the highest quality of care for each young person.