

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC042994
Inspection date	17/02/2014
Inspector	Rosemary Chapman
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	30/07/2013
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Service information

Brief description of the service

The home provides short breaks for young people with learning difficulties and/or physical disabilities. Up to five young people can be accommodated at any one time.

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**.

The home was last inspected on 30 July 2013 when it was judged outstanding. One recommendation in relation to ensuring Ofsted is notified of the outcome of any incident was set at that time. This has been met. Although there have been no incidents requiring notification since that inspection, a system has been put in place to ensure everyone is aware of their responsibilities in this regard.

This inspection judges that the home is making good progress. The manager and staff are able to demonstrate that they are keen to develop the service so that children and young people receive care and support of the highest quality. The home's development plan is comprehensive and regularly evaluated to ensure it is on target. One member of staff commented, 'we are improving all the time.' Staff are currently engaged in making mealtimes a better experience by having photographs of how young people need or like their place setting.

Since the last inspection, there has been an increased focus on ensuring the children's and young people's voice is heard at all times. Staff clearly demonstrate this through the shift handover meeting, visual displays and their practice. The children and young people who access this service use a variety of communication

methods to express their wishes and feelings. Staff now ensure they capture this at each shift so that even a minor expression of a wish or feeling is noted and discussed. This enables staff to meet the children's and young people's needs more effectively and in line with their expressed wishes.

Children and young people access this service for a specific number of nights a year, as determined by their assessment of need. Therefore they have a number of different influences in their lives, each of which has an impact on the progress they make. The home ensures it plays an active part in this by working in close partnership with parents, schools and health professionals so that everyone is providing a consistent service. Parents comment that communication is both good and prompt. Each child or young person has a number of targets which are small and achievable. These are regularly monitored and are now reviewed and documented at each shift, which is a development since the last inspection. This ensures that children and young people make progress in the areas which are identified as being important to them, such as making choices in relation to activities and keeping to them, or using their own finger to indicate a choice.

One further development is in relation to improving communication with children and young people. The manager has applied for and received funding to train a member of staff so that she can train other staff in a particular communication method. Although staff already use this method, this additional resource facilitates easier access to more regular training so that staff keep their skills up to date and are thus more effective communicators.

The home has a new project which is concentrating on improving health outcomes for children and young people. There are visual displays around the home and an increased focus on areas such as healthy eating, exercise and teeth cleaning.

Children and young people benefit from accessing a number of opportunities which they may not otherwise easily experience. These include activities such as going swimming in the local leisure facilities, having meals out and using the sensory room at the home. One parent commented that the care provided, 'is tailored to my child's needs. It is what engages her.' Another parent said, 'My child gets things here which she doesn't get at home.'

Staff are child-focused and enthusiastic about providing good quality care. They feel well supported by the management team and describe the manager as 'responsive' and 'open and approachable'. They have access to good training opportunities, they are regularly supervised, and they communicate effectively with each other, all of which enables them to provide consistent and competent care. Young people are safe and happy as a result.

The manager and staff learn from issues which are either brought to their attention or which occur within the home. One such learning point has resulted in the recent use of night-time door alarms on bedrooms as a further measure to safeguard children and young people. However, the Statement of Purpose has not been amended to provide this information. Additionally, the placement plans do not

indicate that consent has been sought and granted from the placing authority and from parents. These shortfalls do not have an impact on the care and support young people receive. It is clear that everyone is both aware of this protective measure and happy for it to be in place.

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
4 (2001)	ensure the statement of purpose consists of all the matters listed in Schedule 1, with particular reference to the surveillance and monitoring of children (Regulation 4 (1))	31/03/2014
22 (2001)	ensure that the use of electronic or mechanical monitoring devices for the surveillance of children meets all the conditions of this regulation. (Regulation 22 (1))	31/03/2014

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*.