

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	18/12/2012
Inspector	Caroline Oldham
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	08/06/2012
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Service information

Brief description of the service

The home provides short breaks for young people with learning difficulties and/or 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**.

At the previous inspection in June 2012 the overall quality rating for the service was judged as outstanding, with no requirements or recommendations set.

The manager and her team continually review the care practices to make further improvements and changes to enhance the quality of care. They have recently reviewed their system for obtaining feedback from parents, young people and stakeholders to ensure that they deliver highly valued, individualised short break care packages for young people. The staff team continue to work closely with parents and recently have developed flexible packages of care where families have been in crisis. This ability to respond quickly, to liaise with other agencies such as the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service is a real strength of the provision. Parents say that the support from staff is fantastic and young people respond well to the calm and structured environment. The home continues to work closely with schools, so that young people learn new skills and grow in confidence. A further development is a more collaborative approach with schools, and additional support to parents with young people's behaviour management strategies.

The home remains in very good decorative order, and young people have been

actively involved in selecting paint and carpet colours for the bedrooms that they use when they visit, and the communal living areas. The sound and sensory room is currently being revamped to provide exciting recreational space for young people. Consequently the home looks inviting and homely for young people to enjoy.

Young people are healthy, due to receiving good, proactive healthcare. There are robust systems for administering medication, which staff have recently reviewed, and advice is sought from the pharmacist where necessary. Staff deal with emergency admissions to hospital professionally and promptly, to ensure young people receive the medical care they require. Staff liaise with parents to keep them informed about all aspects of the young person's care. The cook is excellent at ensuring that individual requirements are met; both dietary and cultural needs. For example; delicious gluten free puddings and savoury dishes, and Eastern European recipes. Staff ensure that young people have opportunities for activities and exercise, such as, swimming and yoga. For some young people these are new experiences and can be quite daunting, however, they enjoy them and express the desire to do them again. Staff work hard to encourage young people to try new foods and new activities.

Staffing levels are high to meet young people's needs, and to deal sensitively with any behavioural issues. Staff receive training in de-escalation techniques to help young people manage their behaviour. Parents are impressed with the staff care, and report that young people's behaviour calms, due to the staff giving clear boundaries, and responding to the young person's individualized needs, such as, limiting visual stimulation. All young people have comprehensive risk assessments and simple targets have been introduced for all the young people. Staff are paying attention to this practice development, and reviewing progress regularly. As a result young people make excellent progress in their behaviour.

Staff put good strategies in place to keep young people safe, for example, completing risk assessment documents prior to taking young people off site. They notify the appropriate authorities of significant events in a timely manner. Recently documentation regarding safeguarding has all been brought together for staff to access easily, and staff are aware of what they should do if they have any issues of concern. Although there are no incidents of bullying, a document in Widget format has been prepared for young people to read. As a result, young people are kept safe.

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*.