

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC043732
Inspection date	01/03/2012
Inspector	Rebecca Sharp
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	14/12/2011
--------------------------------	------------

© Crown copyright 2012

Website: www.ofsted.gov.uk

This document may be reproduced in whole or in part for non-commercial educational purposes, provided that the information quoted is reproduced without adaptation and the source and date of publication are stated.

Service information

Brief description of the service

The service is a home for up to six young people with a learning and/or physical disability and is managed by the local authority.

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 **inadequate** progress.

At the last full inspection on 14th December 2011 the home's overall effectiveness was judged as outstanding and one requirement was made under Regulation 34. The purpose of this inspection is to look at how the manager has responded to the requirement made, and to monitor progress since the last inspection. The manager was asked, at the last inspection, to ensure that any review completed around the quality of care of the home included consultation with young people, and was then sent into Ofsted as per regulation. Although there has been internal discussion around amending the process of completing these checks, this yet to be decided on and completed. Therefore, the requirement remains unmet and has led to the judgement of inadequate progress.

Young people continue to make excellent progress in relation to their starting points. Staff are committed to providing outstanding care for young people in order to ensure their full participation in achieving positive outcomes. Young people are happy and feel that staff support them well in all aspects of their lives, especially in keeping them safe. The children's guide requires updating as it no longer meets

standards and is not available in other forms of communication; however there is minimal impact on young people presently accommodated. The standard of care remains consistent since the previous inspection.

Since the last inspection the main focus for the home has been on recruitment and developing the staff team. Several new staff have been recruited and have received a thorough induction into the home. All necessary training needs have been identified and there is a plan in place for training to be facilitated. New staff feel well supported by management and the rest of the team. They are receiving regular supervision in line with the company's probation process. There are shortfalls however in the recruitment procedure of the home. Although references have been sought, they have not been verified, and checks have not been made on previous employers within the social care sector as per regulations. This could potentially have an impact on the safeguarding of young people.

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
26 (2001)	ensure that the registered person shall not allow a person to whom paragraph (2) applies to work at the children's home unless that person is fit to work at the children's home. This is with particular regard to checking why a person who has previously worked with children or vulnerable adults left their employment (Regulation 26 (2) (d))	16/04/2012
34 (2001)	ensure that the Registered person shall supply to the HMCI a report in respect of any review conducted by him for the purpose of monitoring the matters set out in schedule 6, and shall provide consultation with children accommodated in the home, their parents and placing authorities. (Regulation 34 (2) (3))	16/04/2012

Recommendations

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

- ensure all people working in or for the children's home have references checked to assess suitability before taking on responsibilities. Telephone enquiries are made as well as obtaining written references (NMS 16.1)

- ensure the children's guide includes how a child can contact their Independent Rights Officer, the Children's Rights Director and Ofsted, and where a child requires it, the guide is available through suitable alternative methods of communication. (NMS 13.5.and 13.6)

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)*.