

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	03/01/2013
Inspector	Caroline Oldham
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	11/07/2012
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Service information

Brief description of the service

The service is a home for up to seven young people with a learning and/or physical disability and it 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 **good progress**.

At the previous inspection in July 2012 the overall quality rating for the service was judged as good, with one requirement and one recommendation set.

The manager was asked to ensure that all persons employed receive appropriate supervision. Staff say and records demonstrate that staff are now received monthly supervision, and feel well supported. Young people confirm that they feel well cared for, and this ensures that young people continue to receive consistent high quality care from the staff team.

A previous recommendation related to improving how children's wishes and feelings are acted upon in the day-to-day running of the home. The manager has now produced a children's feedback form for staff to record comments and observations from the children and young people. This is used at team meetings as a means of recording and discussing young people's wishes. For example, when young people say or indicate that they have enjoyed an activity, it can be offered again. In addition, individual monthly summaries now identify issues concerning the running of the home. Consequently young people's views are sought, recorded and acted upon and they feel they are listened to and actively involved in their home.

There has been a significant increase in new staff who have been appointed since the last inspection. This team is working well together, and the manager is drawing on the individual strengths of team members to enhance the service provided. There is a process of continual improvements and changes, to enhance the quality of care. For example, they have devised systems for monitoring incidents which enable young people's progress and improvements to be easily identified. They seek feedback from young people in various ways to ensure that they continue to deliver high quality care that meets their individualised needs. The manager has identified further areas for improvement around the highly individualised care plans, to ensure that key aspects of care are clearly and easily identified.

A real strength of the staff team is working closely with parents, and they have made significant progress in facilitating the rebuilding of relationships between parent and child. Parents are regular visitors to the home and often share meals and activities such as cooking and attending parties and fun days. The home offers time, facilities and advice to parents, and will make every effort to ensure they feel well supported and involved. Consequently, some young people now enjoy supportive and caring relationships with members of their family.

Young people's health needs are very well met. Some young people have very complex health needs, and the staff are vigilant in their monitoring of their wellbeing. They take young people to hospital appointments and pursue referrals to ensure specialist care is given; this ensures young people receive the medical care they require. All young people enjoy a healthy diet, and have opportunities for activities and exercise according to their wishes and abilities, such as swimming and visiting the gym.

Staffing levels are high to meet young people's individual needs, and to deal sensitively with any behavioural issues. Communication systems facilitate continuity of care for young people, and young people have a brief set of simple achievement targets. Staff receive training in de-escalation techniques to help young people manage their behaviour. Consequently, some young people have made significant progress in managing their behaviour given their starting points.

Staff put appropriate strategies in place to keep young people safe, and all young people have comprehensive risk assessments. Recently the home has put together an emergency bag of key items, in case they have to evacuate the building due to a fire or flood, and this is complemented by an evacuation procedure. Staff have all received training in safeguarding and child protection and are aware of what they should do if they have any issues of concern, 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*.