

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC059853
Inspection date	21/03/2013
Inspector	Stephen Trainor
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	06/08/2012
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Service information

Brief description of the service

This local authority home provides a short-break service for up to six children and young people at any given time who have a permanent and substantial learning disability and who may also have additional needs arising from behavioural difficulties.

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 on 6 August 2012 the home's overall effectiveness was judged to be adequate. The children's home delivered a good quality of care between inspections and this has secured some good outcomes for children and young people.

Five requirements and four recommendations set at the last inspection have been addressed and this led to further improvements to the home's operation. Young people receive good quality care that meets their very specific needs. They have up to date written guidance and information that will allow them to contact external partners including the Children's Rights Director if they wish to do so. The staff supervision frequency is now in line with the local authority policy. A central record is maintained on all training attended and this provides management with the means to monitor when staff require refresher training and updates to first aid certificates. The list of staff qualifications and experience outlined within the home's Statement of Purpose is up to date. Staff members receive appropriate training support and some interesting courses have been provided to ensure the individual needs of the children

can be met. This is particularly evident in supporting children's health needs. Encouragingly there is also access to level 5 diploma training for senior staff members. There is an established staff appraisal system but management are still working on how young people can contribute to this process.

Consultation processes are working well and new ways of seeking views continue to be introduced. The young people, their family members, social workers, independent reviewing officers when appointed and partners have opportunities to comment on the home's practice, operation and management. Comments showing high levels of satisfaction are available. Comments include: 'We are new to the service and all I would like to say is that we love it'; 'Really happy with respite care received'; 'I am so pleased with his care when he is there, I can't express. Brilliant staff, brilliant place'.

The home's Registered Manager provides detailed evaluations on the home's operation within bi-annual reports. Ofsted receives quality assurance monitoring reports at the required frequency. The impact that the service has on children's lives is a lot clearer within these reports. Activities of the home were improved thorough quality assurance measures. Prompt action is now being taken to address any issues identified though external quality monitoring. Staff and the Registered Manager use the available information to support continuous improvement. One significant incident was notified to Ofsted between inspections and this followed the correct procedure.

The home provides a strong, child-focused service that is conducive to young people developing their potential. Young people have strong and trusting relationships with staff. Staff are committed to provide the best possible experiences. Communication between staff, parents, partners and schools remains effective; this is particularly evident in managing medicines. Modern technology is being introduced to support individuals' specific communication needs. The Registered Manager has clear ideas where further developments can be made using the different technologies available.

This home is very stable and is managed very well. Two complaints from young people were responded to appropriately. Safeguarding matter are acted on promptly and in line with requirements. The ethos and culture at the home clearly places children at the forefront of practice in order for them to remain safe at all times during their short breaks. Staff deployment is managed well. Young person are well motivated with interesting and stimulating activities.

Areas for improvement

Recommendations

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

- ensure the staff formal appraisal system takes into account any views of the children and young people the service is providing for. (NMS 19.6)

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*.