

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC060034
Inspection date	12/02/2014
Inspector	Louisa Bayley
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	11/09/2013
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Service information

Brief description of the service

The home is owned by a registered charity. It provides respite care and short breaks for up to six children at any one time, who have a learning disability or a social and communication disability within the autistic spectrum. Children may also have associated physical disabilities.

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**.

This home was judged as good overall at the full inspection in September 2013. Since that time, the manager has addressed the three requirements and one recommendation identified at the full inspection.

The manager has updated the Statement of Purpose and submitted it to Ofsted. The document provides an accurate reflection of the aims of the home and the staff who work there.

The manager has addressed the shortfall in recording sanctions. The records reflect that staff evaluate the effectiveness of any sanctions. The staff team discuss behaviour management approaches and identify successful strategies and those that are ineffective. Staff rarely use restraint, with one incident since the full inspection. Key workers implement positive reward schemes and ensure that all staff are aware of the approaches in place. Consequently, staff support young people to recognise positive behaviour and modify negative behaviour.

The health records in the home now contain accurate information about the health needs and prescribed medication for young people. This supports staff to safely and effectively meet individual's needs.

The home rarely receives complaints, with just one since the previous inspection. Records in the home reflect that managers followed organisational procedures to robustly manage and satisfactorily resolve the complaint.

The manager has addressed the recommendation to provide staff with specialist training to support them to meet young people's communication needs. She has arranged for staff to receive training in signing. A parent said that staff had been particularly helpful in visiting her to support her to learn communication approaches that are consistent with those used in school and in the home. This promotes familiarity for young people and encourages their communication development.

The managers and staff have made a number of improvements since the full inspection. The new format for gathering young people's views is set out with pictures and symbols. This promotes accessibility for young people to express their feelings about the care they receive. New reporting formats provide clarity in reflecting young people's progress. Staff have utilised good practice examples to develop a format that is informative, comprehensive and gives a good overview of the young person. This supports care planning and identifying additional support individuals require. Revised guides for young people and their parents set out informative and accessible information about the home. Picture formats for young people promote their understanding of the resources, routines and staff in the home so they know what they can expect.

Managers have reviewed the food intake for young people in the home. They have made changes to the food offered to improve the nutritional balance and range of healthy foods. This promotes healthier diets for young people and helps them to develop their own awareness of foods that are more likely to result in good health outcomes.

Parents say their children enjoy their short breaks. They say the staff are 'fantastic' and 'brilliant'. One parent said: 'My son is so happy there and I love taking him.' Young people have warm relationships with the staff. They make active choices about the activities they would like to do and staff encourage them to be as self-managing as possible, supporting the development of their independence skills.

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*.