

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	16/01/2013
Inspector	Elaine Cray
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	07/11/2012
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Service information

Brief description of the service

This is a privately owned children's home which provides care and accommodation for up to five children and young people, who have a learning disability.

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**.

The home was judged as good at the last full inspection which took place in November 2012. It is judged to be making good progress following this interim inspection. There were two statutory requirements and one recommendation made as a result of the last inspection. All have been met.

Records about sanctions are improved and fully recorded as required. The Registered Manager maintains good relationships with young people's parents and social workers. Young people's views and feedback from parents and social workers are included in the monitoring and development of the home.

The Registered Manager has completed appraisals for all staff. This process embeds and improves the existing staff supervision and training of staff. Young people are looked after by a stable, committed and well-trained staff team.

Young people progress because the quality of care is structured and nurturing. Young people of all ages and abilities learn and develop because they are cared for by a responsive and sensitive staff team. Staff facilitate routines that support young people with significant learning disabilities and communication challenges.

Behaviour is well-managed and staff have a good insight into the individuality of young people. This awareness is based on long term knowledge due to the permanency and duration of young people's placements. Behaviour strategies are set down in the majority of care plans but are not in place for the most recently admitted young people.

Staff have a good understanding of autism and they understand the different ways young people express their needs and understanding. This awareness positively impacts on the complex nature of young people's needs, resulting in improved behaviour. Young people develop in confidence due to a clear emphasis on rewarding improved behaviours. Consequences and physical interventions are rarely used, and only as a last resort.

Young people can express their views and choices because staff understand expressions of behaviour and facilitate a combination of verbal, symbol and signing processes for communication. For example, the records from the monthly young people's meetings are set down in symbol form; showing a variety of choices about the menus and activities in the home. Young people also choose colours for their bedrooms and appreciate the help staff have given to paint their favourite cartoon characters in the young people's bedrooms.

Young people continue to make good educational, social and emotional progress because they receive a good quality care. A key strength of the home is the strong and meaningful relationships between young people and staff. Young people develop in confidence and are supported with appropriate family contact. Young people attend and do well in education. They enjoy a range of activities and particularly enjoy going out to eat, visiting a variety of restaurants and trying a range of different meals.

Social workers and parents have a very positive view of the home. Young people's improved behaviour, effective working in partnership and the meaningful transition processes to adult placements are particularly valued.

The Registered Manager and staff continue to maintain and improve outcomes for young people and the standards of care in the home. The home has been extensively refurbished and extended. Standards of décor and furnishing are good and reflect the needs of the young people.

Young people are looked after by trained staff who understand procedures and implement a well-managed framework of care. Staff development and monitoring processes are effective and contribute to the on-going development of the home.

Areas for improvement

Recommendations

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

- ensure children's emotional and behavioural needs are set out in their care plans. (NMS 3.7)

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*.