

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	26/03/2014
Inspector	Jo Stephenson
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	03/10/2013
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Service information

Brief description of the service

This is a privately owned children's home that provides care and accommodation for up to six 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 last inspected in October 2013. The judgement at that time was good. Progress since the last inspection is good. The service has appropriately addressed the two requirements and five recommendations that were made at the previous inspection. For example, significant improvements have been made to young people's case files. This means that the outcomes for young people have improved because of developments in the quality of care provided by the home.

Since the last inspection, the Registered Manager has worked in close partnership with the placing authorities. Young people benefit from having up-to-date statutory plans in place that are regularly reviewed. As a result, the aims and objectives of the placing authorities are clear and compatible with services provided by the home. This means that the progress young people make is effectively monitored and this promotes their development. Furthermore, internal support plans for young people have been reviewed and amended. These ensure that young people's identified individual needs are supported and this promotes their welfare and well-being.

Staff ensure that case files for young people include all necessary documentation and information. For example, case files contain personal education plans and statements

of special educational needs. Consequently, young people benefit from an integrated and comprehensive approach to meeting their needs. In addition, staff devise internal plans and risk assessments for young people that incorporate all of their care needs. As a result, young people receive a bespoke service that reflects their complex needs. This further promotes their safety and welfare.

Consultation with young people is central to the day-to-day running of the home. Since the last inspection, the Registered Manager has introduced 'communication passports'. These identify the individual mediums that young people use to communicate, including body language, facial expressions and alternative communication methods. As a result, young people's views and feelings regarding their care are incorporated into their individual support plans. This means that young people are involved, as far as is practicably possible, in decisions about their care. Furthermore, young people participate in regular young people's meetings. Minutes of these meetings are recorded in picture format. Young people are able to review these meetings should they wish to.

The home has recently been redecorated. This has improved the aesthetics of the environment and also the visual and sensory stimulation for young people. For example, sensory equipment has been added to young people's bedrooms and communal areas in the home. This supports the development of young people's emotional skills and provides them with a relaxed and calm environment. In addition, communication boards are displayed within the home. These boards provide young people with easy access to the pictorial signs and symbols they can use to communicate with others. For example, young people hand picture symbols to staff to indicate their meal preferences. Furthermore, young people freely access educational resources and toys that encourage their social interaction skills. As a result, young people experience improved self-esteem and confidence and this further promotes their development and well-being.

The Registered Manager has reviewed the staff training programme to ensure that training better reflects the needs of young people. For example, training sessions during team meetings include looking at the signs and symptoms of bullying. This heightens staff awareness of these behaviours and subsequently promotes the safety of young people. Staff complete training in alternative methods of communication. This means that staff are able to respond effectively to young people by interpreting body language and facial expressions. As a result, young people are continually reassured and feel safe and secure in their surroundings. This supports their welfare and well-being. In addition, staff have developed their sign language skills. The home has a named staff member who is responsible for training other staff in the use of non-verbal communication methods. Because staff have the skills and abilities necessary to effectively communicate with young people, young people's personal development is promoted.

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*.