

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC064182
Inspection date	24/02/2012
Inspector	Peter Harrell
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	13/12/2011
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Service information

Brief description of the service

This privately run home provides accommodation and care for up to six young people with learning 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 **satisfactory** progress.

At the last full inspection in December 2011, the home was judged to be good overall. There were three requirements and four recommendations made. The home has maintained quality of care and outcomes for children and young people, it has addressed the requirements but only met two out of the four recommendations that were raised at the previous inspection.

Young people benefit from individualised support from staff and there is an increased use of picture communication symbols throughout the home. Young people's welfare is enhanced by positive relationships which exist between the staff and young people. A parent of a young person commented that she 'could not want for better care of my child, really, really wonderful staff'. There is an ongoing programme of redecoration in the home; this has made the home more vibrant and welcoming. The garden area is being redeveloped. Young people benefit from a staff team, a Registered Manager and a care coordinator, who are committed to improvement and reflect on evaluation of the care they provide to young people.

At the last inspection, a requirement was made to ensure that records of control and

restraint were correctly recorded and documents provided which were suitable for the young people's level of understanding. Although there have been no incidents in recent times, these records have been updated and several documents now include picture symbols. In addition, the surveillance equipment which was in use in the home is being decommissioned and this will be referred to in the Statement of Purpose. However, the Statement of Purpose and the children's guide have not been updated, therefore requirements are made for these to be submitted to Ofsted within a clear timescale and these documents will also be in a picture symbol format and shared with the young people.

A third requirement from the previous inspection has been met; there is now an ongoing programme in place for all staff at the home to receive regular supervision, it is recommended that this is maintained and accurately recorded. There is a stable and suitably qualified, vetted and ethnically diverse staff team. Staff are equipped with the necessary skills to support young people through a training programme which is targeted to meet the specific needs of the young people, in particular working with young people with autism. Staff confirmed that the training available is good. Regular monitoring visits are undertaken monthly by a senior member of staff from within the organisation. Reports are produced in a timely manner and appropriate in their content, detail and requests for action to be taken.

The home is showing signs of capacity to improve. There is a commitment from staff at the home to provide a high-quality service which benefits young people. Staff are supported by a Registered Manager who has a focus on improvement of the quality of care and outcomes of young people.

Areas for improvement

Statutory Requirements

This section sets out the actions which must be taken so that the registered person/s meets the Care Standards Act 2000, Children's Homes Regulations 2001 and the National Minimum Standards. The registered person(s) must comply with the given timescales.

Reg.	Requirement	Due date
4 (2001)	ensure that the registered person shall provide a copy of the Statement of Purpose to the HMCI and shall make a copy of it available on request (Regulation 4)	02/04/2012
4 (2001)	make sure that the children's guide shall be produced in a form appropriate to the age, understanding and communication needs of the children to be accommodated in the home (Regulation 4)	02/04/2012
5 (2001)	ensure that the registered person supplies a copy of the children's guide to the HMCI, and on admission to each child accommodated in the home. (Regulation 5)	02/04/2012

Recommendations

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

- ensure a record is kept by the home detailing each supervision held for each member of staff, including the registered person. (NMS 19.5)

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 (March 2011)*.