

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	07/03/2012
Inspector	Judith Longden
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	28/10/2011
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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)*.

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.

Service information

Brief description of the service

This home is a ten-bedded residential short break service for children with a range of disabilities, including learning disabilities, physical disabilities, autism and complex health needs. Children usually attend three or four nights per month. Funding is from the local authority and the health authority. The staff team are multi-disciplinary and nurses are always on duty.

Progress

Since their previous inspection the service is judged to be making **good** progress.

A full inspection was carried out in October 2011 and the home was given an overall effectiveness judgement of outstanding. There were no requirements or recommendations made as a result of the last inspection.

This home demonstrates continued improvement in the quality of care provided with a clear commitment to service development. A particular strength of the home is the strong and inspirational management team and the motivated staff team who are committed to provide a quality service and promote positive outcomes for young people.

The Registered Manager is enhancing skills in staff management and supervision, encouraging reflective practice. Experienced staff are given the opportunity to develop skills by taking the role of mentor to other staff including agency and relief workers. As a result staff feel engaged and supported.

Staff benefit from a variety of training opportunities including joint training with occupational therapists and physiotherapists. As a result they are able to improve their competency and ensure the complex health needs of young people are met.

The home has excellent procedures for monitoring the quality of the service provided and the welfare of the young people. The registered provider undertakes visits to the home in accordance with regulations and carries out checks to ensure the quality of service remains good and the welfare of young people is monitored. The manager monitors records kept by the home to identify any concerns, patterns or trends. However, these are not forwarded to Ofsted regularly as required.

The home has excellent short break care plans in place that provide detailed information on the needs and wishes of the young people. Daily routines are devised from these plans and are reviewed by staff prior to every shift. This ensures young people are cared for in line with their individual plans with respect to their individual needs and wishes. Young people benefit from annual reviews of their care by an Independent Reviewing Officer. Staff carry out a home visit prior to the review to

gain the views of parents and family members. Young people are encouraged and supported to contribute to these reviews and identify their own progress. Young people contribute to consultation groups where they plan menus and activities and raise any concerns they may have. As a result young people are involved in their care and in the running of the home.

The home has been redecorated and new posters and photographs are on display. This gives a welcoming and bright feel to the home. New equipment and toys have been purchased which provide stimulating activities for young people and promote learning and development.

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
34 (2001)	supply to the HMCI a report in respect of any review conducted by the manager.(Regulation 34(2))	12/04/2012

Recommendations

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