

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC065730
Inspection date	18/03/2014
Inspector	Mary Timms
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	18/12/2013
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Service information

Brief description of the service

This home is a ten-bedded residential short break service managed by a local authority for children with sensory impairment and learning and 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**.

When this home was last inspected in December 2013 the overall effectiveness of the service was judged to be good. This inspection judges that the home has made good progress since that time. Children and young people continue to benefit from a high standard of care and make good progress as a result. No requirements or recommendations have been set within this inspection report.

Competent and knowledgeable staff provide children and young people with a positive experience during their short break placements at this home. Staff are passionate about their role and work hard to promote good outcomes for the children and young people in their care. Comments from staff include 'the staff team are committed to treating children as individuals not just as disabled children'.

The Registered Manager demonstrates that the service is committed to continuous improvement. Progress has been made across the service since the last inspection including: introducing simple but imaginative pictorial décor in bedrooms including the use of Velcro boards; improved focus on personal development targets within care planning; a range of staff training has taken place and initiatives started to further improve joint working with external agencies.

Following the last inspection action was taken by the Registered Manager to ensure that recruitment records evidence that telephone verification of references has been undertaken. While the actions taken further enhance safeguarding arrangements this inspection was unable to explore implementation into practice as there has been no further recruitment. Practice will be monitored further on the next full inspection.

Since the last inspection the provider has initiated improved consultation with children and parents during external management monitoring visits made to the home. However, due to the restricted period of time since the last inspection future inspections will monitor for sustained development in this area. There is a high level of effective internal management oversight of care arrangements.

The nursing and care staff have an excellent understanding of children and young people's diverse and ever-changing health care needs. This is because care is individualised and well-planned in consultation with parents and external health professionals. Comments from parents include 'my child has very complex health needs and I am really confident and happy with the way staff care for xx'. The nursing team are led by senior staff who provide clinical supervision and monitoring of the delivery of health care arrangements. The level of oversight identifies areas for required improvement promptly. For example, if a medication error occurs this is identified quickly and robust action is taken to improve the safety of the medication administration processes.

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*.