

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC066651
Inspection date	28/01/2013
Inspector	Robert Curr
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	29/10/2012
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Service information

Brief description of the service

The home is run by a local authority as part of its service to children with disabilities and their families. The home offers residential short break care to six young people with severe learning disabilities, some of whom have complex and challenging behaviour.

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 received a full inspection in October 2012 and was judged to be good overall. Two requirements were raised relating to the notification to Ofsted of significant events and producing the children's guide in appropriate formats. A recommendation was also raised in relation to monitoring the activities of the home.

The manager has improved safety and outcomes for young people by meeting one requirement and the recommendation. The action around one requirement is not fully completed.

For example, all significant events relating to the protection of young people are now notified to the appropriate authorities, including Ofsted. This information allows Ofsted to fulfil its regulatory safeguarding responsibilities in ensuring that matters have been appropriately addressed.

The manager is collecting the views of young people, their parents and social workers. This feedback is now collated within the quality monitoring programme. As

a result this programme contains views and opinions that are used to drive improvement.

The children's guide to the service has been reviewed. This is currently being produced in a number of formats appropriate to the needs and ability of each young person. This process is not complete; therefore a recommendation is raised following this inspection.

The home continues to be conscientiously managed. The manager has applied to register with Ofsted. One young person is enjoying increased time at the home and has settled in well during his stays. One parent said, 'The staff are brilliant, this is a great service.' Another states, 'I have no worries regarding his care, the staff team are always happy to talk with us and are well motivated.' Young people feel safe and secure and they continue to make good progress at this home. They all benefit from 100% attendance at school.

Young people have also enjoyed the benefits of improved diet and nutrition, which is helping some young people to improve their general well-being.

Young people have benefited from work undertaken to improve the fabric and appearance of the home. This has included new floor coverings and young people choosing colours for redecorating communal areas.

The staff team remain committed to promoting good outcomes for young people and are supported to do so. They work closely and effectively with social workers and other agencies in order to achieve this. One young person has enjoyed a successful transition to another setting. This was due to working in partnership with independent advocacy and key workers from each home undertaking visits over a long period of time.

Following this interim inspection, this home is judged to be making good progress.

Areas for improvement

Recommendations

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

- continue to produce the children's guide in suitable alternative formats. (NMS 13.6)

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*.