

## Inspection report for children's home

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| <b>Unique reference number</b> | SC361789        |
| <b>Inspection date</b>         | 14/02/2013      |
| <b>Inspector</b>               | Guy Mammatt     |
| <b>Type of inspection</b>      | Interim         |
| <b>Provision subtype</b>       | Children's home |

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|--------------------------------|------------|
| <b>Date of last inspection</b> | 19/09/2012 |
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## Service information

### Brief description of the service

The service is run by the local authority. The home is registered to provide care and accommodation for up to 10 young people either sex with emotional and behavioural difficulties and/or learning disabilities.

The purpose-built house is situated on the site of a local authority special school and has access to some of the school's facilities.

### The inspection judgements and what they mean

|                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Good progress</b>         | 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. |
| <b>Satisfactory progress</b> | 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.                                  |
| <b>Inadequate progress</b>   | 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 **inadequate progress**.

At the full inspection in September 2012 the home was judged as good with two requirements and one recommendation made. The home has failed to fully address one of the requirements and the quality of care and outcomes for some young people have declined since the last full inspection. As a result of this three compliance notices have been issued.

Consultation does take place throughout the home in a variety of forms; however, evaluation of the consultation is not included in the monitoring completed by the Registered Manager. This is the same situation as when the full inspection took place. In response to the other requirement made at the full inspection staff now record de-escalation techniques in the physical intervention log. Also in response to the recommendation made staff are now aware they are required to offer medical attention to all young people following the use of every restraint.

The records of restraint show that on occasions staff have intervened with the use of physical intervention to enforce compliance with their requests and to stop young people being absent without consent. Some use of restraint is against the behaviour management plan in place for the young people. The behaviour management plan instructs staff to hold young people to prevent them from leaving the home without permission. As a result of this young people are not kept safe at all times and may receive an unnecessary injury due to the incorrect enforcement of restraint.

Young people are sometimes contained in a locked environment as a form of behaviour management. This measure of control is restrictive and does not benefit the young people.

Some outcomes for young people at the home are good. Most young people at the home have benefitted from the carefully managed environment and have continued to display settled behaviour. Most young people have shown a significant decrease in the need for physical intervention since being at the home. All young people benefit from good access to educational services. Some young people have also established good regular family contact as a direct result of their settled behaviour since living at the home.

Young people receive good promotion of their health needs. The Registered Manager implements a variety of specialist services. This ensures some of the young people are supported to develop their communication skills and help balance their emotions.

The home largely provides care for young people with autistic spectrum disorders and learning difficulties. Young people with severe emotional and behavioural needs are relatively new to the service. The home largely meets the needs of the majority of young people; however; it has experienced difficulties in providing satisfactory care for all young people at the home.

## 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   |
|---------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| 17<br>(2001)  | ensure no measure of control or discipline which is excessive, unreasonable or contrary to paragraph (2) shall be used at any time on children accommodated in a children's home<br>(Regulation 17 (1)) | 15/03/2013 |
| 17A<br>(2001) | ensure restraint may only used on a child accommodated in a children's home for the purpose of preventing injury to any person or preventing serious damage to the property of any                      | 15/03/2013 |

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|               | person. (Regulation 17A (1 (a & b)))                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |            |
| 17B<br>(2001) | ensure the registered person shall prepare and implement a written policy (in this regulation referred to as the behaviour management policy) which sets out the measure of control, restraint and discipline which may be used in the children's home (Regulation 17B (1 (a))) | 15/03/2013 |
| 34<br>(2001)  | ensure the system referred to in paragraph (1) shall provide for consultation with children accommodated in the home, their parents and placing authorities. (Regulation 34 (3))                                                                                                | 31/03/2013 |

## 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*.