

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC387148
Inspection date	04/02/2013
Inspector	Anthony Kyem
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	10/07/2012
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Service information

Brief description of the service

This home is a purpose-built property which provides residential care, shared care and respite care for up to five young people with autism, learning disabilities, and physical disabilities. The home is run by a private company.

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 overall effectiveness of the home was judged to be good at its previous inspection. Since then, positive progress has been made in addressing the three recommendations and three requirements made at the previous inspection.

The home's Statement of Purpose has been updated to include accurate details of the current staff composition, including their qualifications, skills and relevant experience in caring for children.

Young people benefit from the improved arrangements made to promote their safety. Damaged floor tiles and missing finger shields have all been repaired or replaced, where necessary. A carbon monoxide detector has been installed and self-closing fire-doors have been adjusted. Together these measures have improved the safety of the premises.

The home's fire fighting equipment, gas and electrical appliances are all professionally serviced. There are sufficient fire-drills held to ensure young people are familiar with the home's emergency evacuation plan. The home provides young

people with a safe, good standard of living accommodation that is homely and comfortable.

There are plans to replace the uneven flooring on the upper levels of the property. The current flooring is damaged and unsuitable, as a result of a water leak. The manager ensures that all accidents and injuries sustained by young people are recorded and monitored effectively. Appropriate systems have been reviewed to ensure young people's parents are always notified of any accidents. Consequently, communication between the home and parents has improved since the last inspection.

Young people's safety is at the centre of staff practice. Risks associated with their behaviours are carefully assessed and staff adhere to safe care practices to keep young people safe. There are no issues with young people going missing or bullying.

Staff who work with the young people are subject to safe recruitment checks to assess their suitability to work with children. Safe recruitment practices are followed to ensure young people are protected from unsuitable people.

Positive use is made of the home's monitoring activities to promote the smooth and efficient operation of the home. A written development plan is in place to promote the quality of young people's care and the improvement and development of the service.

As a result of this inspection, one recommendation is made for the home to address. This relates to replacing the uneven flooring to improve the standard of the physical environment.

Areas for improvement

Recommendations

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

- ensure the home provides a comfortable and homely environment. This specifically relates to replacing damaged and uneven flooring within the home. (NMS 10.3)

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*.