

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC389781
Inspection date	21/12/2011
Inspector	Seka Graovac
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	16/09/2011
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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 service is owned and managed by a limited company. It is fully funded by a local authority for the exclusive use by families and children who live in this inner city borough. It is a respite service for children and young people who have a disability. This includes children and young people with emotional or behavioural difficulties, physical and learning disabilities, sensory and communication impairment and those who have an autistic spectrum disorder. The home is registered for looking after eight children and young people at any time. Its stated mission is to reach the largest number of children with special needs and their families with the most warm, loving, dynamic and unique service. Children and young people come for weekend breaks term-time and longer stays during school holidays, on an agreed rolling basis. The same children and young people also attend an after-school activity club at the home. In addition to its children's services, the home also provides support for a group of mothers of children with disabilities of minority ethnic origin.

Progress

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

The home was judged as good overall at the last full inspection. The management has successfully addressed all three requirements that were raised at the full inspection in September 2011. The Statement of Purpose now provides more comprehensive information to stakeholders. The staff recruitment records now clearly evidence the robustness of the recruitment procedure. The revised policy on behaviour management promotes good practice and supports appropriate record keeping effectively. Staff have been able to manage children's behaviour without having to resort to sanctions or physical interventions. There have been no major incidents. Children and their families are very appreciative of the support they receive. The quality of care the home provides remains high. The outcomes for children and their families are very positive.

The home has demonstrated a firm commitment towards continued improvement. In addition to the improvements that Ofsted required the management to make, the home has started a number of new initiatives in consultation with staff, parents and the funding authority. This includes a quarterly newsletter, fully revised children's guide, new display boards and presentations of children's work around the house, more systematic ways of collating visual memorabilia for children who use the service, better communication within the home and with schools and improved consistency across different services children receive. Other initiatives and further improvements are under way.