

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC397293
Inspection date	25/01/2012
Inspector	Judith Longden
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	10/08/2011
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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 children's home provides care and accommodation for up to six young people who are diagnosed as being on the autistic spectrum and/or having learning disabilities and who are unable to live with their families due to the complexity of their diagnosis.

Progress

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

At the full inspection that was carried out in August 2011, the overall effectiveness of the service was judged as satisfactory. Three requirements were made. The home has failed to address all three requirements and these are restated. The Statement of Purpose still does not contain the qualifications and experience of the manager and staff. The young people's guide still omits contact details for Ofsted. This means full information is not available to young people or parents. The manager has not yet revised the fire risk assessment for the home. As a result procedures are not kept updated and the safety of young people could be compromised.

In addition a further five requirements are made as a result of this inspection. The home is in a poor state of decoration and several areas require complete refurbishment. This has been an ongoing issue and means the environment is not welcoming and homely. Other requirements relate to issues that impact on the safety and welfare of young people. Staff at the home say a fire drill was held earlier this month but records indicate the last drill was held in March 2011. Recording of restraints is not always complete with a number of signatures missing. It is not routinely recorded whether young people were talked to about the restraint or made any comment. A recent incident concerning a child protection matter was reported to the police but was not appropriately referred to the Local Authority Designated Officer for safeguarding. In addition, the manager failed to notify Ofsted as required. This means that the relevant agencies were unable to contribute to the subsequent strategy meeting to protect young people.

The previous inspection made two recommendations relating to supervision of staff and the updating of health and safety assessments. Both of these have been met. Staff are supervised regularly and supported to maintain the quality of care provided to young people. Health and safety assessments of the building, activities and young people are updated and reviewed to protect young people from harm. A new recommendation is made to ensure young people's records are kept up to date to provide an accurate reflection of the care provided.

The home has made progress in some areas. Young people say they are happy and

parents are pleased with the quality of care provided. Relationships between staff and young people are good. Young people are able to contribute their views and express their opinions on their care and the running of the home. Outcomes have improved for some young people in areas such as education, sexual health and preparation for transition. One parent said their child had 'progressed in leaps and bounds'.

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
4 (2001)	update the Statement of Purpose to include the matters listed in Schedule 1; in particular the qualifications and experience of the manager and staff (Regulation 4 (1))	23/02/2012
4 (2001)	update the children's guide to include the correct address and telephone number of the HMCI (Regulation 4 (3)(c))	23/02/2012
16 (2001)	ensure the correct procedure is followed in the event of any allegation of abuse or neglect (Regulation 16 (1)(b))	23/02/2012
17B (2001)	ensure a written record is made of any measure of restraint including confirmation that the young person has been spoken to about the measure and that the record is signed by the person authorised to make the record (Regulation 17B (3))	23/02/2012
30 (2001)	shall without delay notify the HMCI of any event listed in Schedule 5 as indicated in column 2 of the table (Regulation 30 (1))	23/02/2012
31 (2001)	ensure the home is kept clean and reasonably decorated and maintained (Regulation 31 (2)(e))	08/03/2012
32 (2001)	ensure there are adequate precautions against the risk of fire; in particular update the fire risk assessment (Regulation 32 (1)(a))	23/02/2012
32 (2001)	ensure, by means of fire drills and practises at suitable intervals, that the persons working at the home and, so far as practicable, children accommodated there, are aware of the procedure to be followed in case of fire. (Regulation 32 (1)(e))	23/02/2012

Recommendations

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

- ensure records are clear, up to date and stored securely. (NMS 22)

