

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC400901
Inspection date	04/03/2014
Inspector	Gwen Buckley
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	02/10/2013
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Service information

Brief description of the service

This home is operated by a charitable organisation, under contract to a local authority. It is registered for up to six children and young people with emotional and/or behavioural difficulties, physical disabilities and learning disabilities. The home provides two different services within the same building. Short breaks are available for young people over weekends and school holidays. Boarding placements are also available, so that during the school term the home provides care and accommodation to young people attending linked special schools.

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 **satisfactory progress**.

This inspection focused on the progress made by the home since the last full inspection in October 2013. The overall judgement at that inspection was good. The home is making satisfactory progress. The home is operated by a charitable organisation. It is registered for six young people with emotional or behavioural difficulties, physical disabilities and learning disabilities.

The manager has taken action by addressing the four requirements and one of the two recommendation made at the last inspection, the remaining recommendation is therefore repeated. Restraints are very seldom used in the home. The record for one restraint used since the last inspection clearly indicates the reason why restraint was required and that staff were spoken with following this. Due to the young person's ability to communicate and the manager not present for a few days following the

restraint the views of the young person were not recorded. However, restorative work undertaken with the young people helps them manage their own behaviour. The manager is developing the range of resources to help obtain and record the views of young people. Talking mats are now used to aid communication and the manager stated these will be used, when needed, following any future restraint.

Well-maintained medication administration and recording systems keep young people safe. External monitoring now routinely seeks the views of parents during the visits and includes these in the reports. Parents are complimentary about the quality of care provided one saying, 'I would not change a thing.'

Health and safety at the home is a high priority. Regular fire evacuations take place using different scenarios helping staff, and young people with differing abilities understand what to do. Young people have individual Personal Emergency Evacuation Plans: an evacuation chair is now available and a new misting system installed in the home, which helps protect young people. Recording systems for some fire related checks clarify how frequently they take place and records show they are normally completed. However, the frequency of checks undertaken on fire fighting equipment is not in line with the home's fire risk assessment.

The home has maintained the quality of care provided and has raised money to improve the resources available to young people. Young people benefit from new yoga and meditation sessions and plans to upgrade the sensory room are in place. One young person informed staff he liked the meditation sessions as they 'clean my brain.' Young people routinely influence the menu planning which ensures meals provided reflect their individual preferences.

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
32 (2001)	ensure that the requirements of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 and any regulations made under it, except for article 23 (duties of employees), are complied with in respect of the home. This specifically relates to providing clear guidance for staff on the expected frequency of checks and ensures these are met. (Regulation 32 (1A))	30/04/2014

Recommendations

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

- ensure that all staff's work is consistent with regulations, national minimum standards and the homes own policies and procedures; this specifically relates to completing restraint records and fire safety equipment checks. (NMS 21.3

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*.