

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC400901
Inspection date	18/02/2013
Inspector	Caroline Oldham
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	02/10/2012
--------------------------------	------------

© Crown copyright 2013

Website: www.ofsted.gov.uk

This document may be reproduced in whole or in part for non-commercial educational purposes, provided that the information quoted is reproduced without adaptation and the source and date of publication are stated.

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 **good progress**.

At the previous inspection in October 2012 the overall quality rating for the service was judged as outstanding, with one recommendation set.

The home was asked to ensure that information about the young people is recorded clearly, and in a way which will be helpful to them when they access their files now or in the future. All young people now have files covering achievements and independence. These are excellent documents with lots of visual evidence, such as photographs and symbols, which young people can easily understand. Clear writing shows progress such as: young people making choices; buying new clothes, managing their money and using technology, such as using a chip and pin debit card. Certificates and awards are also used to highlight achievements, and these are added to the files. Consequently, young people's files clearly show information about their time in the home and the progress that they make. This gives them confidence

to build on these skills and try new things.

Since the last inspection, the staff team have worked closely with the young people to provide an extensive range of play facilities in the garden. They are currently progressing ideas for healthy eating and leading a healthy lifestyle, and they are now embarking on plans to develop the facilities in the sensory room. Staff are actively involved in fundraising, and raising the profile of the home within the community. The manager draws on the strengths and expertise within the staff team, whether it is around knowledge of other cultures, such as celebrating St Nicholas Day, or raising awareness of disability amongst the young people. In addition, staff have extra responsibilities to ensure that the quality of care is continually progressed to meet the needs of the young people. A recent area of development has been housekeeping and promoting independence. Young people are developing basic skills in caring for their environment, such as washing laundry and vacuum cleaning.

The manager seeks the views of service users, their parents guardians, and others involved in their care, to continually quality assure what is being offered and to make further improvements. There is ample evidence of extremely high levels of satisfaction with the developmental progress that young people make, due to the care and support offered by the staff team. There is a recently created extra-large 'scrap book'; this is a beautiful example of how displays and activities are captured to show prospective visitors the types of activities they might enjoy at the home. It is also an excellent tool for enhancing communication between young people and staff. As a result, young people say they like coming to the home, they enjoy the activities on offer, the food and the staff. They feel listened to, and can make choices.

All young people attend school or college. The staff team work closely with schools to ensure continuity of care, such as methods of giving medication and behaviour management strategies. Consequently, young people feel assured that the care they receive is consistent, and they manage transitions between home, school and the provision very well.

Due to excellent monitoring systems, staff are able to identify concerns about young people's health. For example, some young people were gaining too much weight. The staff team put strategies in place to encourage young people to eat more healthily, for example: managing portion size, restricting puddings and cakes, providing yoga sessions for exercise, and raising food awareness. Young people enjoy projects such as 'come dine with me' to practice their cooking skills and to learn about nutrition, cooking and health. Consequently, young people are becoming more health aware and consuming calories appropriate for their lifestyle. Good strategies for settling at night result in young people enjoying better sleeping patterns.

Some young people have complex health needs and the well-trained staff team manage these very well so young people feel comfortable and assured about their health care. A member of staff has specific responsibility for all staff training around clinical procedures. The system for administering medication has been reviewed, and an improved system has been introduced. Staff say the system is very good, and

staff are fully trained and monitored in this, and any medical procedure.

Young people behave very well, and sanctions and restrains are very rare. Good staff ratios ensure that young people have the attention that they need, and the opportunities to do activities that they enjoy. Young people say they like coming to the home because they can go swimming, play football at the park and do lots of different craft activities. Others enjoy breaking away from the group, and having some peace and quiet with a member of staff. By tailoring the range of activities to the wishes and needs of each young person, staff ensure that young people's behaviour is well managed and any anxieties are quickly deflected. It is a real strength of the staff team that, although a large number of young people use the service, staff develop exceptional knowledge of their likes and dislikes and how they need to be cared for. Consequently, young people are relaxed and happy; they can express themselves and are understood. Although there are group activities, young people are able to choose how they spend their time according to their mood and wishes. As a result they love coming to the home and enjoy their time with staff and others.

The home has excellent strategies to keep young people safe, and staff are aware of what to do if they are concerned about the welfare of a child. There are comprehensive individual risk assessments for each young person, and additional risk assessments are undertaken as required. The environment is monitored through systems of regular checks. Staffing levels are high and are set according to the needs of each young person, for example, to ensure that personal care is carried out sensitively and with dignity. Consequently, young people in the home are kept extremely safe and very well cared for.

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*.