

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC405285
Inspection date	08/03/2012
Inspector	Deborah White
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	13/12/2011
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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 four children who have autism and learning disabilities. The home is operated by a private provider.

Progress

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

This home was judged as good at the previous inspection in December 2011. This interim inspection judges the home has made good progress in demonstrating action it has taken to address shortfalls and improve outcomes for children. Two recommendations from the last inspection are met. There is one new requirement to address from this inspection that does not significantly impact on children's welfare.

Since the last inspection changes have been made to allow for staff to have a handover between shifts to exchange important information about the care of children. Risk management is also improved where children have reached their eighteenth birthday to safeguard children and vulnerable young adults who live together.

Children are progressing well and continue to have very good outcomes. School attendance is excellent and children are achieving their full potential. Staff have sound values and are committed to the home and the care of the children. This is reflected in their day-to-day practice and positive interactions with children and each other. Leadership and management at the home is strong and this provides a stable environment for children to grow and develop.

Behaviour management is good and enables children to develop their skills in all aspects of their lives. Children are supported and nurtured to achieve and are engaged in a range of meaningful activities. Privacy and dignity is promoted and children's cultural needs are very well met.

Children are looked after in a homely environment that meets their needs. There is ample space to socialise and to have private time. An enclosed garden provides an area for children to play safely and there are lots of toys, games and sensory items to help children engage in hobbies and pastimes.

Children enjoy a varied, healthy diet to promote good health and development. Staff introduce children to different foods to let them experience new tastes and food textures. Mealtimes are social occasions, that promotes inclusion and helps children to develop positive social skills.

Monitoring at the home is good to improve the home's performance. Staff are

supported and supervised to ensure they maintain their skills and knowledge to meet the needs of the children.

Records of staff working at the home are kept but they do not fully show which staff are on duty and the hours actually worked to provide clear information and an audit trail of the adults who have responsibility for the care of children. For example, staff rotas do not include the full names of each staff member and some agency staff are not recorded at all.

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
29 (2001)	maintain in the children's home the records specified in Schedule 4 and ensure they are kept up to date. (Regulation 29 (1))	31/03/2012

Recommendations

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