

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC412971
Inspection date	31/01/2012
Inspector	Paul Scott
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	27/07/2011
--------------------------------	------------

© Crown copyright 2012

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.

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 is operated by a private organisation. The home provides residential and respite care and accommodation for up to four young people with learning disabilities.

Progress

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

At the last full inspection on the 27 July 2011 the children's home was judged to be outstanding. The home has demonstrated continued improvement in the quality of care and outcomes for young people.

Young people continue to achieve good outcomes because they receive a high standard of care from an experienced, competent and qualified staff team. Staff make every effort to ensure young people's day-to-day needs are met. They provide excellent support to young people to enable them to access both routine and specialist healthcare services. Consequently, young people's current and emerging health needs are routinely addressed. Staff provide young people with high levels of supervision to ensure they are kept safe. Relationships between staff and young people are extremely positive. They know young people well and are very good at managing the complex and challenging behaviour of young people with complex needs. Young people are learning better ways to manage their anxieties and frustrations and their welfare and safety is promoted at all times. Staff creatively use a wide-range of skills and systems to overcome the barriers to communication. For example, they use fun activities such as doing alphabet jigsaws to improve young people's learning, including the development of communication skills. This has proven highly effective in enabling young people to express themselves. Staff continue to provide young people with good opportunities to learn and develop new skills. Young people are more confident in their own abilities and, with support, they are developing the necessary skills to complete daily tasks safely and independently.

The home is effectively managed and continues to show a capacity for improvement based on its performance since the last inspection. Positive action has been taken to address the two good practice recommendations from the previous inspection. All staff have now completed safeguarding training to ensure they are able to recognise the symptoms of abuse and respond appropriately to any concerns they may have. Procedures are in place to ensure all new staff complete a comprehensive induction programme that includes the Children's Workforce Development Council's induction standards.

Some contingency management arrangements had been agreed with Ofsted to cover the planned absence of the Registered Manager. This provided a good opportunity

for the home's deputy manager to gain management experience. The appointed individual has risen to the challenge well. Staff are provided with good support, guidance and training to enable them to meet young people's current and emerging needs. They continue to deliver a strong, child-focused service that enables young people to develop their potential and lead happy and fulfilling lives.

During this inspection one shortfall has been noted. The manager's monitoring of the operation of the service, the quality of care and young people's progress and outcomes does not routinely gather the views of young people, their families or social workers. Also, Regulation 34 reports have not been routinely sent to Ofsted as required to confirm regular monitoring takes place.

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
34 (2001)	ensure any review of the quality of care shall provide for consultation with children accommodated in the home, their parents and placing authorities and supply Ofsted with any report in respect of this review. (Regulation 34 (2)(3))	29/02/2012

Recommendations

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