

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	03/12/2013
Inspector	Gillian Walters
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	09/05/2013
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Service information

Brief description of the service

This children's home is operated by a private organisation and is registered to care for up to four young people. The home provides residential and respite care for young people with learning disabilities.

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 **inadequate progress**.

At the last full inspection on the 9 May 2013 this home was judged as good. The home's management arrangements had been strengthened with the appointment of two additional deputy managers supporting the Registered Manager and her assistant manager. There were two requirements and two recommendations made as a result of this inspection to promote further improvement. These have all been suitably addressed.

The home's Statement of Purpose has been reviewed and updated to appropriately reflect the ethos of the home and its approach to anti-discriminatory practice. Young people's records are legible, care planning documents are appropriately signed and dated and the outcomes of young people's reviews are successfully retained within their personal records. This ensures that staff and those with permitted access to young people's records have easy access to, and can understand the most recently agreed plans and actions required to support the individual needs of young people.

Young people settle quickly into the home's routines and enjoy placement stability.

As a result most are making good progress in all aspects of their development. Young people attend a school operated by the provider that specialises in teaching and supporting young people with autistic spectrum disorders. Young people are well engaged with their learning and as a result are specifically developing their communication and independence skills. Young people who have limited verbal communication benefit from increased availability and regular use of pictorial resources that are consistent with those used in education. Staff benefit from time spent with young people in the school environment and training provided in relation to the use of picture exchange. As a result young people have good opportunities and the resources to express their views and wishes and have them clearly understood by the staff team. Young people are respected and given choices in their daily living arrangements to ensure that they are not disadvantaged by their disability.

Young people benefit from regular contact with their families, ensuring that they maintain appropriate relationships with those family members that are most significant in their lives. Staff support young people to enjoy visits at home with parents and siblings and provide a welcoming atmosphere for those that visit the service. Young people benefit from the wide range of activities and outings the home provides. Together these activities promote young people's social inclusion and enable them to develop and maintain adult and peer relationships.

The Registered Manager has been proactive in developing consultation with families to ensure that the home receives regular feedback that can be used to identify further improvements in the quality of care that is provided. Families have generally expressed satisfaction and confidence in the home highlighting the home's environment, quality of staff resourcing and structure as the strengths of the home. One parent responded, 'The home is well prepared and has detailed behaviour support plans, a positive ethos and good team work.'

At the last inspection it was noted that excellent arrangements existed for the management and administration of medication that had the potential to minimise the likelihood of error. However, this has not proved effective as since the last inspection, four errors have been made in administering medication to young people. Although the errors were quickly identified and the Registered Manager has taken appropriate action in each case, young people's safety and well-being has been seriously compromised and their health not effectively promoted.

A shortfall was also identified in the quality of the home's care planning and risk assessments. Following these significant incidents, although information had been communicated to staff in meetings, young people's individual plans were not reviewed and updated. This means that planning documentation was insufficiently robust to safely inform and guide staff of the individual care and support required by young people.

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
11 (2001)	promote and make proper provision for the welfare of children accommodated there; and make proper provision for the care, education, supervision and, where appropriate, treatment, of children accommodated there. This relates specifically to maintaining robust risk assessments and care plans; reviewing these in a timely manner following any significant incident or event (Regulation 11(1) (a)(b))	01/01/2014
21 (2001)	ensure suitable arrangements exist for the recording, handling, safekeeping, safe administration and disposal of any medicine received into the children's home; and that any medicine which is prescribed for a child is administered as prescribed, to the child for whom it is prescribed. (Regulation 21(1)-(2)(b))	01/01/2014

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*.