

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC412979
Inspection date	30/01/2012
Inspector	Paul Scott
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	15/07/2011
--------------------------------	------------

© 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 and is registered to care for up to four young people. The home provides residential and respite care for young people with learning disabilities.

Progress

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

This interim inspection has focused on the progress made by the home since the last full inspection, at which the overall judgement was good. The service has made good progress in the majority of areas, improving the quality of care and outcomes for young people with disabilities.

Young people continue to live in a safe, caring and supportive home environment that enables them to make good progress in all aspects of their lives. They are looked after by competent and creative staff with the right skills and experience. Staff know young people well and provide them with personal support tailored to meeting their individual needs. Communication difficulties are creatively overcome through empowering use of visual supports to facilitate effective communication. The promotion of young people's education, health and well-being is excellent. There is good support from health specialists including Children's Adolescent Mental Health Services and the organisation's behaviour and speech therapist. Known concerns are managed very well. All young people attend education and are making good progress relative to their age and ability.

Young people have very strong trusting relationships with staff. Staff are very good at sensitively managing the extremely challenging behaviour that arises as a result of young people's disabilities. Behaviour management strategies are continually evaluated for effectiveness. As a result, young people are taking an increased responsibility for managing their own behaviour and the number of incidents has decreased. Staff continue to provide young people with good opportunities to learn and develop new skills. This has enabled young people to develop their self-confidence to complete daily tasks safely and independently. Good links with adult services ensure young people are well supported when moving on. A number of young people have successfully moved into the organisation's adult provision and continue to make good progress in their lives.

The home is effectively managed and continues to show a capacity for improvement based on its performance since the last inspection. The manager has made good progress in addressing the good practice recommendations from the previous inspection. Rotas now include designated time for staff handovers and they are well structured to ensure staff are clear about their roles and responsibilities on each

shift. Procedures are now in place for new staff to complete a comprehensive induction programme that includes the Children's Workforce Development Council's induction standards. An increased number of staff have completed first aid training. However, a number of staff have not completed first aid training which compromises young people's health and well-being.

A suitably qualified and experienced manager has been appointed since the last inspection. They have taken time to evaluate the service the home offers. Consequently, she has a clear understanding of the home's strengths and the areas for future development. The manager has made improvements to a number of systems including supervision and team meetings. Staff are encouraged to regularly reflect on their own practice, young people's progress and look at ways to improve the service they offer to ensure the individual needs of young people are met. Also, they are given the opportunity to develop their knowledge and skills to enable them to understand and meet the emerging complex needs of the young people in their care. This ensures staff channel their efforts effectively into delivering a strong, child-focused service that is conducive to young people developing their potential.

One additional shortfall was noted. The manager uses a number of quality assurance systems to monitor the operation of the home, young people's welfare and progress and the home's records. However, Regulation 34 monitoring does not routinely capture the views of young people, their parents and relatives or placing authorities.

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):

- ensure all staff have received sufficient training in first aid. (NMS 6.7)