

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	11/12/2012
Inspector	Bridget Goddard
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	08/08/2012
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Service information

Brief description of the service

This children's home is registered to provide care and accommodation for up to six children and young people of either gender with physical disabilities and/or learning disabilities. The young people's placements are made under short break arrangements and their ages range from nine to 17-years-old. The service is run by a county council.

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 full inspection in August 2012, the home was judged as adequate overall. Two requirements and four recommendations were made at this inspection, and the home has made good progress in addressing these.

The first requirement was to ensure that staff were aware of both the timescales, and what to record following a positive physical intervention on a young person. Although there have been no physical interventions since the last inspection, this requirement is completed. Actions taken include a focused discussion about timescales and recording in the team meeting, and there is also a new template in place which guides staff through what they must record.

The second requirement was to ensure that staff handle medication safely. Medication administration now requires two signatures, and there is a clearer process for medication errors. Consequently, medication errors have reduced which demonstrates a safer system. However, in spite of managerial efforts medication

training is not yet in place.

One recommendation concerned ensuring that regulation 34 reports are sent to Ofsted at six monthly intervals. This point has not yet been reached, so this recommendation will be repeated.

The first recommendation and the third concerned ensuring that children's wishes and feelings were taken into account in a variety of ways. This has been well met by holding a number of short, focused young people's meetings. Young people have been encouraged to express their views at these meetings about such things as food, activities and décor. There have been some very positive outcomes for example, young people's food choices are now clearly reflected on the menu, and young people have chosen the art work for their bedroom. Generally young people's presence is now more strongly felt around the home, for example there are pictures on the walls of young people doing activities and a birthday tree.

The second recommendation concerned ensuring that young people's families were more involved in their care. Again this has been well-met, with one parent's meeting held and others planned, and a more regular newsletter. Parents now get a pre-visit phone call, and more detailed post-visit communication is encouraged. This means that parents are now more able to become involved in their child's care plan, and in the general development of the home.

Generally staff are positively working on team building, and the fabric of the home has been improved by bespoke artwork. This all helps to achieve as positive an experience as possible for young people.

Areas for improvement

Recommendations

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

- ensure that at six -monthly intervals Regulation 34 reports are sent to Ofsted within twenty eight days of completion (Volume 5, statutory guidance, paragraph 2.27)
- ensure that staff receive sufficient training on health issues, specifically the administration and checking of medication. (NMS 6.7)

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*.