

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC415400
Inspection date	19/01/2012
Inspector	Michael Williams
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	06/10/2011
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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 is registered to provide care and accommodation for up to six children and young people of either sex 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.

Progress

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

The home is maintaining the quality of care and the outcomes for children and young people that were both judged to be good at the previous full inspection of the home in October 2011.

The Registered Manager has taken the action the previous inspection required: the home's Statement of Purpose has been revised to include the current arrangements made for child protection. It now states that arrangements for child protection are in line with those of the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB). A copy of the LSCB child protection process is readily available to staff, both in an electronic and paper format. As a result, effective arrangements for the protection of young people are provided.

At the time of the last inspection, a number of staff had transferred employment from a national children's charity to the council, and started work at the home under Transfer of Undertakings Protection of Employment arrangements. As a result of these exceptional circumstances, the council had authorised these staff to commence work at the home before they had completed their checks on them. These checks have now been completed. The personnel files for each of these members of staff have been transferred to the council which has completed new enhanced Criminal Records Bureau checks for each of them. As a result, the council now has their own confirmation that these staff are able to work with children and young people to an enhanced level.

At the last inspection, following the end of the school summer holiday, supervisors were working to meet the home's stated target of providing formal staff supervision every four weeks. They are still working to meet this specified frequency, with such supervision taking place at four- to six-weekly intervals. The Registered Manager monitors this situation through their supervision of the home's two senior practitioners and four shift leaders. The inspector observed a shift leader reminding a residential support worker that they had supervision scheduled the next day. This is one of the ways that staff are supported to provide a high quality service to young

people.

The Registered Manager explained the recent redecoration of one of the young people's bedrooms. The room's furnishings needed to be minimal, because of the individual needs of the young person who uses the room most often, and as a result staff had inventively redecorated it to make it much more homely and pleasant. It is part of a rolling programme of redecoration aimed at providing as suitable an environment as possible for the young people.

The Registered Manager gave the following response to the home's December 2011 external monitoring report: 'I am really pleased that this is such a good report, no recommendations this time and some really good comments. Staff should be really pleased and should be congratulated on all of the hard work they do to make [the home] a happy and nurturing environment to be in.' This gives an accurate description of the environment at the time of this inspection.