

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspector	Pamela Nuckley
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	25/09/2012
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Service information

Brief description of the service

This registered children's home is run by a local authority. It offers short residential stays to a maximum of two young people with learning and physical 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 **good progress**.

At the full inspection in September 2012, the overall quality rating for the service was judged as good with one recommendation set within the inspection report. The home was asked to ensure that children have access to independent services and support from adults who they can contact directly and in private about problems or concerns. This recommendation has been met. This short break service has demonstrated continued improvement in the quality of care and outcomes for children and young people.

The home has been meticulous in ensuring that each young person understands that there are several organisations that would assist them if they were not happy or had any concerns. Using their preferred form of communication young people have demonstrated that they understand how to contact independent services within young people's meetings. Therefore, young people are not restricted to the home's internal complaint procedure if they had any worries or concerns.

An excellent feature of this home is how they capture that all young people are fully included, as individuals, in the development and day to day routines of the home. Young people receiving a service at this home use different forms of communication.

Considerable thought has been put into how the service can effectively demonstrate the full involvement of young people in all aspects of the running of the home. Photographs have now been introduced to capture how the young people have taken part in young people's meetings. The service has been responsive to young people's views and ideas. For example, one young person said that it would be good to have numbers on the bedroom doors, so he knew which room he was staying in. All young people agreed with this idea and this is now in place. Additionally, young people are looking forward to being involved in developing the home's garden. They are hoping to do this in competition with another short break service.

Professionals and parents regularly compliment the team for having a flexible approach to meeting the needs of young people. One parent said, 'I am very pleased with the care he has been given and that all staff have got to know him as an individual'. Staff are committed to assist parents and the local authority in planning for young people, and liaise well with education and health providers involved with young people. Staff support young people to maintain relationships with their families. Parents say staff provide a happy experience for their child, which enables the whole family to re-charge and continue to look after their child at home. Children look forward to their short breaks because they experience opportunities they may not otherwise have access to, for example visiting community resources such as shops and leisure facilities.

The home continues to offer a range of activities to young people. This ensures that they try new things, that they are involved in the local community and that they develop social skills. The home celebrates these achievements and displays photographs within the home of young people having fun.

When young people move to adult services their transitions are planned very well. Staff actively support the transition to adult services by liaising with parents, taking young people to visit and inviting the new service to their home. This enables young people to move with as little stress as possible. At the point of referral, comprehensive information is collated to see if the home can meet a young person's needs. Staff liaise with parents, schools and specialist medical professions to inform their decision. They also receive additional training for any complex medical needs. As a result, staff competently deliver services to young people that safeguards their welfare.

Excellent outcomes are being achieved and young people continue to receive a high standard of care from an experienced, competent and fully qualified staff team. Staff receive support through regular supervision, appraisals, training opportunities and group opportunities to discuss the needs of young people. Staff are well supported by the manager who has a good commitment and focus on improvement. Staff are motivated and clearly understand their roles.

The manager provides excellent insight and support to ensure staff fulfil the aims and objectives of the service to a high standard. They use thorough quality assurance systems to monitor the operation, management, young people's welfare and the home's records. Staff contribute their ideas and views about the service in

regular staff meetings The home's development plan is realistic. It targets areas for improvement and builds on areas of strength that this service has consistently demonstrated. The management team leads staff to deliver dynamic and knowledgeable care to complex and vulnerable young people. This promotes continuous improvement for young people's care.

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*.