

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	11/01/2012
Inspector	Valerie Shephard
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	04/07/2011
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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 home is registered to provide care and accommodation for up to six children and young people of either gender, with physical disabilities and complex health needs. The home is managed by a private organisation.

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 when the overall judgement was outstanding. The home has made good progress in all areas which improves the quality of care and outcomes for young people.

The manager has addressed the requirements and recommendations made at the previous inspection. There have been no notifications since then, however, the manager is aware of the need to notify Ofsted of any significant events pertaining to young people. In relation to the recommendation set at the last inspection, there is evidence that the home fully supports transition for young people to adult services. Both of these measures help to ensure that the management of the home benefits the welfare of the young people.

Good progress is evident in a number of areas. Young people receive excellent care from an experienced and competent staff team, and achieve good outcomes. The promotion of education is very good and there is positive contact with school for the benefit of young people. All the young people have very complex health needs and specialist training to meet these needs is high on the training agenda for staff. Currently staff are developing their clinical skills in ventilation and tracheotomy care. This will enable staff to continue to offer the best possible care to young people with exceptionally high health care needs.

All of the young people in the home have limited communication skills. Key workers review care plans regularly and complete monthly reports on behalf of young people, highlighting any progress made. This enables staff to advocate for young people who have limited communication and consequently champion their complex needs. The information gathered feeds into the regular statutory reviews conducted for young people. This practice helps to ensure that young people's care needs are unhampered by their inability to express their views verbally.

In relation to young people in transition, staff regularly update care plans and the manager and staff are proactive in attempting to implement these. This has been difficult on occasions, however, the staff team are doing all they can to move forward in this area. Staff are looking creatively into whether they can offer a

package of support to young people when they leave the home.

Risk assessments are reviewed monthly and wider issues are discussed in team meetings. This assists staff to understand the complex needs of all the young people to ensure they can continue to give them the best possible care. Although the staff team only use physical restraint occasionally, they have implemented a new restraint technique to use with young people. This mirrors the technique used by the schools the young people attend. Some members of staff have received this training and are sharing the practice with the whole staff team. This method has proved to be effective in reducing the opportunity for young people to cause injury to themselves.

The fabric of the building has improved with the conversion of a bedroom into much needed office space and new flooring in the kitchen, which had been a health hazard. A bedroom is currently being prepared to enable the admission of another young person.

The manager is fulfilling the home's aims and objectives. Monthly supervision sessions are organised for staff to enable them to feel supported in their role of caring for young people. Training is high on the agenda to ensure staff have the necessary skills to care for young people effectively. Most of the staff hold the required National Vocational Qualification at level 3 in Caring for Children and Young People. All the managers are undertaking an appropriate management qualification.

Quality assurance systems are in place with the completion of Regulation 33 reports. However, Ofsted has not received some Regulation 33 reports. In relation to Regulation 34, the manager has failed to submit a summary report to Ofsted as required. This means that there has not been a review of the quality of care in the home, which would benefit 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
34 (2001)	supply to HMCI a report of any review conducted. (Reg (34)(2))	18/02/2012

Recommendations

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