

## Inspection report for children's home

---

|                                |                 |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Unique reference number</b> | SC059842        |
| <b>Inspection date</b>         | 31/01/2012      |
| <b>Inspector</b>               | Denise Jolly    |
| <b>Type of inspection</b>      | Interim         |
| <b>Provision subtype</b>       | Children's home |

---

|                                |            |
|--------------------------------|------------|
| <b>Date of last inspection</b> | 04/08/2011 |
|--------------------------------|------------|

---

© Crown copyright 2012

Website: [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://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

|                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| <b>Good progress</b>         | 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. |
| <b>Satisfactory progress</b> | 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.                                  |
| <b>Inadequate progress</b>   | 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

The home provides a short-breaks service for up to four young people who have a permanent and substantial disability.

### Progress

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

At the last full inspection the home was judged outstanding. Outstanding outcomes for young people with complex needs continue to be enabled by sensitive and dynamic staff. Excellent communication with families ensures that personal routines and preferences are recognised, valued and supported. This ensures young people have a positive and enjoyable short break from home. Young people benefit from an opportunity to grow, and develop new skills in sharing activities and adult attention, and improve their communication ability. They increase understanding of themselves and their potential.

Young people experience short breaks away from home in an environment carefully designed to support their independence, and have complex health and communication needs met. They stay in a home which reflects their personalities, with many personalised touches in bedrooms and shared space. Fully qualified and well trained staff provide energetic and enthusiastic guidance for young people. They grow in confidence as they explore the wider world, and develop understanding of the needs of others.

Staff encourage a sense of community within the home which allows young people to express themselves, and try new activities, such as, going to the supermarket, or a professional football match. Young people expect that they will be listened to, and receive care which meets their needs. Staff use reflective practice to understand the views of young people, and all young people contribute to the development of the home. Young people say, or demonstrate, their happiness with the service they receive. Parents say 'the staff do more than enough' to make their child safe and comfortable in the home.

The Registered Manager uses considerable knowledge and enthusiasm to lead staff to adopt an inclusive and enabling approach to care of young people. Staff regularly review practice against outcomes for young people, and embrace opportunities for development which further improve the service. This year the home has responded to local authority changes in regulatory oversight. The manager leads review of placements for many young people under Regulation 17 of the Children Act, and has developed a framework for this purpose. In consultation with stakeholders, documents prepared include an imaginatively presented statement of views of young people, whatever their ability to communicate. Clearly identified actions ensure that

the needs of young people are paramount, for example, progress young people make is evidenced and celebrated, and activities are identified which improve life experiences for individuals, such as transition planning or health assessments.

Careful monitoring and feedback is conducted through comprehensive Regulation 33 and 34 reports. Currently Regulation 34 reports are not sent to Ofsted as required, although this has not affected the care young people receive. The manager is developing additional opportunities to increase feedback from stakeholders to better inform the service development plan, such as, more open questions asked in informal settings. Information from monitoring is used in the home's development plan, alongside comments gained from parents and young people. Families are welcomed at the home, and regular coffee mornings and open fun days help young people to recognise their short stays are part of their whole life experience. Further initiatives to involve families have included the production of staff profiles which are circulated to enable families to get to know the whole team. As a result, young people benefit from highly individualised and progressive care which adapts to their changing needs.

## 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<br>(2001) | ensure the registered person shall supply to Ofsted a report in respect of any review conducted by him in respect of improving the quality of care provided in the children's home. (Regulation 34 (2)) | 29/02/2012 |

### Recommendations

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