

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	31/01/2012
Inspector	Pippa Greed
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Provision subtype	Children's home

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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

The home provides care and accommodation for up to six children and young people, with special educational needs and/or disabilities, between the ages of eight and 18 years.

Progress

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

At the full inspection in August 2011, the overall effectiveness rating for the service was judged as good with four recommendations. The home has addressed most of the recommendations that were raised at the previous inspection. In respect of the Regulation 33 reports these are still required to be submitted to Ofsted.

The home demonstrates steady improvement in the quality of care provided with a commitment to achieving positive outcomes for young people. This has included evaluating the current level of service such as addressing recommendations, reviewing health and safety checks, providing good care and support for young people, communicating with significant others as well as ongoing staff development.

Since the last inspection, the manager and staff team have proactively maintained young people's care needs. This has ensured that young people are receiving care in a consistent and stable manner. The manager and staff team continue to provide regular updates to significant others. The manager and staff were seen to be patient, kind and nurturing towards young people in their care.

The manager has an effective care planning system. There is good evidence in relation to recording young people's achievements with daily routines, social skills and activities. This means young people benefit from a service that adapts to their changing needs and preferences. Staff demonstrated good understanding of young people's wishes. This has a positive impact on young people; developing their skills, improving their confidence and self-esteem, for example, reduction in young people's anxiety when using a taxi to school or ongoing development in social skills.

Surveys sampled from a parent included comments such as, 'One of the best things is it is run as a home not a residential unit. The staff are knowledgeable and stay there a long time which means (name) knows everyone there and is happy to go in.' The manager has written a development plan for the home with action points. However, the development plan does not record; target dates, ideas and aspirations for young people living at the home and how they are consulted on this.

The manager has an effective monitoring and recording system for behavioural incidences. The records cover incidences and use of restraints when used including

account of de-escalation used and evaluation. This actively safeguards young people and staff. Young people have the advantage of a skilled and observant staff team.

Staff involve young people in decisions that affect their care and progress within the home. This includes activity planning, exploring the community and developing daily living skills. For example, young people have the opportunity to go to drama club, carry out voluntary work for local charity, prepare a meal, go to the park, dancing, trip to London and enjoying celebrations. In recent months, there has been steady improvement in young people's outcomes in learning, social and independence skills, for example, learning to use money when out shopping or how to measure correct quantities when preparing a meal.

Staff continue to benefit from regular supervision, team meetings, and group opportunities to discuss the needs of the young people. The service ensures staff develop their training needs through induction, supervision and certificated training. Staff report that they feel well supported and encouraged to develop their confidence in ways of working. This promotes continuous improvement in how young people's care is being addressed.

The manager and staff team have young people's well-being at heart and promote their achievements. Staff are genuinely enthusiastic about the care of young people and there is a commitment to providing a good service.

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
33 (2001)	the registered provider shall supply a copy of the Regulation 33 report to the HMCI. (Regulation 33 (5) (a))	01/03/2012

Recommendations

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