

Inspection report for children's home

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<b>Inspection date</b>	28/02/2012
<b>Inspector</b>	Guy Mammatt
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Interim
<b>Provision subtype</b>	Children's home

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<b>Date of last inspection</b>	27/10/2011
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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

<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

This children's home is a resource centre for children with disabilities and their families and is owned and managed by the local district council. One of the services offered at the centre is residential short break care for children with a disability. It is this aspect of the centre's activity that is regulated under the Children's Homes Regulations 2001. The centre is registered for five young people aged between eight and 17 years who have a learning and/or physical disability; many of the children also present challenging behaviour. Other services offered include day care, after school care and outreach services.

### Progress

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

At the full inspection in October 2011, the overall quality rating for the service was judged as outstanding with no requirements or recommendations made.

The home has demonstrated continuous improvement in the quality of care and outcomes for children and young people since the last inspection. This has included children and young people making excellent progress. They continue to flourish, develop and achieve individual goals across all outcome areas. Managers evaluate, embed and enhance the current level of service, and implement a Service Plan to illustrate the continual development of the home. Young people display obvious enjoyment when attending this service. Feedback from parents continues to be complementary, citing the staff's enthusiastic approach to the care of the children and young people as one of the many benefits of the service.

In response to discussion at the previous inspection, the Registered Manager has written a comprehensive service plan. This details clear and effective procedures for monitoring and controlling the activities of the home, including its financial viability. The key priorities of the service are identified as well as the strengths and weakness. Clear objectives and goals have been reasonably delegated across the staff team to sustain the outstanding level of care provided. The staff are well supported and have a good understanding of the expectations placed on them to fulfil their roles.

The management team closely monitors the welfare of the children and young people through observation, engagement between staff, children, young people, and their parents, by listening and responding to views, inspection outcomes and through good quality assurance systems. The management ensures all staff working at the home consistently follow the home's policies and philosophy. The core of the staff team has been in place for a number of years and provides a wealth of experience that contributes to the professional approach and smooth running of the home.

Children and young people are consulted about their care and are able to choose from a selection of diverse activities on offer. A variety of communication systems throughout the house provides equal opportunities to promote participation for all children and young people. Great care is taken by the service to ensure that any child or young person is not excluded because of a disability or a language barrier. Young people are able to pursue individual interests and hobbies. These include taking part in a range of purposeful activities provided by the service to encourage social and emotional development, such as leisure trips and involvement in youth community groups supported by staff.

The management team place great importance on ensuring the staff team on duty each day reflects the needs of the children and young people. There are always sufficient numbers of staff on duty. The rota is completed by prioritising the needs of the children and young people in placement each day. This is in order to provide maximum continuity and to aid progress and encourage positive relationships and outcomes. The home is decorated to a high standard; it is well resourced and provides excellent play facilities to either stimulate the children or to provide exercise and positive interaction with others.

An experienced senior care team supports the Registered Manager; together they have shown great determination and forethought to continually seek new ways to drive the service forward for the benefit of the children and young people who use the service. The home has an outstanding record and it would be easy for the service to stand still. Despite a Regulation 33 monitoring visit not being completed recently, the Registered Manager has demonstrated that the service is always looking for new ways to stay current and achieve the best outcomes for children. This is evidenced by the management’s constant monitoring of the service, the implementation of monthly reports of the young people and the evaluation of critical incidents within the home.

## 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)	ensure that where the registered provider is an organisation or a partnership, they, in accordance with the regulation, must carry out a visit at least monthly and produce a written report on the conduct of the home. A copy of the report is to be sent to HMCI. (Regulation 33)	30/03/2012

## **Recommendations**

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