

Inspection report for children's home

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<b>Unique reference number</b>	SC068559
<b>Inspection date</b>	29/02/2012
<b>Inspector</b>	Keith Riley
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Interim
<b>Provision subtype</b>	Children's home

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<b>Date of last inspection</b>	28/09/2011
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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 registered to provide care and accommodation for up to 18 children and young people who have a learning difficulty.

The service is privately owned. A respite/short break service is provided and young people may stay in the home on an independence programme until the age of 25.

### Progress

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

At the last inspection in September 2011 the home was judged as good for overall effectiveness. There were two requirements and one recommendation made. These have all been met.

There are suitable arrangements in place for the recording and handling of medication and young people have safe access to those parts of the home they need. There are close levels of supervision due to the needs of the young people. There are specific risk assessments in place to ensure children are safe while accessing the community. Although missing from care is not identified as an issue at the home, there are procedures in place that comply with local runaway and missing from home and care protocols. Young people's health and safety are protected.

Staff have comprehensive safeguarding training, approved by the Local Safeguarding Children Board, that is regularly refreshed. Staff have a thorough understanding of safeguarding procedures in order that they can appropriately respond to any signs or allegations of abuse. Effective management and adherence to robust policies ensure all are protected and supported. Young people are supported by a competent staff team who understand their vulnerabilities and who are trained to respond appropriately to any concerns.

Young people enjoy the interaction and engagement they have with staff. Staff are appropriately trained in behaviour management and focus on encouraging positive behaviour. All staff, including bank and agency staff, are trained in the home's approved behaviour management restraint techniques and apply these strategies when only really necessary. Young people have the best possible chance to manage their own anxieties and subsequent behaviours.

The manager analyses incidents on a regular basis and consults with other professionals, such as psychiatrists, to agree on strategies for the best possible

outcomes for young people. However, some incidents such as an overnight stay in hospital, are not notified to Ofsted. This has happened on one occasion since the last inspection.

The home has a Statement of Purpose which describes the aims and objectives and services provided so that placing social workers and families have an idea of the environment the young people are living in. Young adults, who also live at the home, have an up-to-date moving on and care plan. Generic risk assessments are in place that consider the impact on young people accommodated at the home. However, the risk and the impact of every young adult living at the home on the young people is not fully assessed on an individual basis. This means there may be instances where the presence of adults living in the home may have a negative impact on young people accommodated there.

There are various systems to monitor the quality of care including effective communication with young people as to their views. Young people are able to express their views such as the activities they want to do, the decor in their room or how they feel about the routine in the home. Young people are achieving awards, engaging in new activities, such as rock climbing or bowling, and showing greater independence.

There is regular analysis of events in the home such as complaints, incidents and restraints logs. However, reports are not sent to Ofsted as recommended in statutory guidance. The manager has applied to be registered with Ofsted.

## 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
30 (2001)	ensure, if any of the events listed in column 1 of the table in Schedule 5 takes place, the registered person shall without delay notify the persons indicated in respect of the event in column 2 of the table, in particular a serious illness or serious accident sustained by a child accommodated in the home is notified to Ofsted (Regulation 30 (1))	02/04/2012

### Recommendations

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

- ensure children's safety and welfare is promoted in the home, in particular identify the risk and impact of every young adult living at the home on any children at the home (NMS 4.1)
- send, at six monthly intervals, a copy of the report made under Regulation 34 to HMCI within twenty-eight days of completion. (Volume 5, statutory guidance, para 3.14)