

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	14/03/2012
Inspector	Michael McCleave
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Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	02/08/2011
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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 children's resource unit is operated by a local authority. It provides respite short breaks for up to nine children with learning disabilities and complex health care needs, and for children who have autism. The service is provided from two sites. The bedrooms in both units are all single occupancy and are equipped with modern appliances to assist in moving and handling. The enclosed gardens lead to a safe secure play area. Both units have sensory rooms.

Progress

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

The children's resource centre has made satisfactory progress towards completing the recommendation made at the last inspection. This related to ensuring that the children's guide was amended to remove references to out of date information. The organisation is currently reviewing the design of the guide and intends to incorporate the required change with the next print run.

No children were present during this inspection.

This children's resource unit is very well managed. It has a team of staff who are positively motivated in their work on behalf of the children. They support and encourage the children to achieve positive outcomes during their time at the unit. All aspects of care planning is highly personalised so as to meet their individual care and social needs. Parents are very satisfied with the high level of care provided for their children. One parent said 'nothing is too much for the staff I have every confidence in them I know my child is safe at the unit.' Another stated 'my child gets brilliant care he is always talking about his stay and looks forward to going there.'

The children's resource centre and the satellite unit are both well maintained providing the children with a safe and comfortable environment. Bedrooms are suitably furnished with specialist equipment to meet the care needs of the children. Each bedroom has appropriate safety equipment installed including audio listening devices. However, the unit does not yet have a policy governing the use of such surveillance measures.

Records are appropriately maintained and case records give a clear account of the care plans for each child. Although restraint is rarely used, the current log does not include a prompt for staff to ensure that children are asked if they wish to be examined by a medical professional. Parents are always informed of any restraint used on their child.

Staff shortages have caused significant issues for the unit and the manager has used temporary staff to ensure appropriate safe cover is in place. The manager has been successful in appointing a group of new staff who are currently going through the induction training programme. They demonstrate a positive enthusiasm for working with children who have learning disabilities. Staff have a clear understanding of their safeguarding responsibilities and are aware of the importance of ensuring that the children's parents are kept fully informed about any issues affecting the safety and well-being of their children.

There continues to be a strong commitment to the provision of high quality standards of care at the children's resource centre. Equality and diversity is embedded into the culture of the centre. This ethos is shared by the staff who are themselves highly motivated to provide the children with a caring and stimulating environment.

Areas for improvement

Recommendations

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

- ensure children are always given the opportunity to be examined by a registered nurse or medical practitioner following any incident where restraint is used (NMS 3.16)
- ensure where specific measures, including electronic devices, are used to monitor children, there is a written policy that sets out how they should be used, how they promote the welfare of children, how children will be informed of their use, how legitimate privacy of children will be protected and how children will be protected from potential abuse of such measures. (NMS 10.5)