

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC059203
Inspection date	26/03/2012
Inspector	Deborah White
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	08/07/2011
--------------------------------	------------

© Crown copyright 2012

Website: 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

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 home provides short breaks for six children who have a learning disability. The home is operated by the local authority.

Progress

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

This home was judged as good at the previous inspection in July 2011. This interim inspection judges the home has made good progress demonstrating action to improve and develop positive outcomes for children. There are no requirements or recommendations arising from this inspection.

Children continue to enjoy homely accommodation that meets their needs. There is lots of space for children to play and socialise. Children have access to a range of games, toys and arts and crafts materials for indoor play. The garden and grounds provide an excellent, safe play area. There is a sensory garden with outdoor instruments for children to experiment with sounds and a purpose built play park with a play maze and bespoke swings and play equipment.

Children are engaged in a wide range of leisure activities to promote independence and to develop children's social skills. They access all local amenities and are welcomed into the local community. Staff promote inclusion and respect each child's right to be treated equally. Children identify activities as one of the best things about attending the home for their short breaks.

Children experience positive relationships with staff and feel safe and secure. Interactions are age appropriate and meet the needs of each child. Staff have high aspirations for children and celebrate achievements. Children are supported, encouraged and empowered to develop feelings of self esteem and confidence.

Children are consulted about their care and how it is to stay at the home. Children's views and wishes are respected and taken into account. For example, children choose what meals they would like over their weekend stay and help staff with the food shopping and meal preparations. Children are included in their care plans and agree with their key worker what goals they wish to achieve while staying at the home. Children are encouraged and enabled to meet their goals to have a sense of achievement and success.

Staff are developing children's case files to show each child's assessed needs and how these will be met. Feedback from parents, social workers and placement reviews show children are progressing from their starting point. Staff work with teachers and other professionals to ensure children receive the care and services they need.

Leadership at the home is strong. Development plans demonstrate how the home intends to improve services and outcomes for children. Staff feel supported and describe moral as very good. Staffing levels are adequate and staff receive regular training to ensure they have good knowledge to underpin their day to day practice. Regular Regulation 33 visits are undertaken to monitor the home's performance. Feedback is positive and identifies that children's needs are very well met.