

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	07/01/2013
Inspector	Jennie Christopher
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	16/08/2012
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Service information

Brief description of the service

The home is registered to provide overnight accommodation for a maximum of 5 children.

This is a short-break unit which provides day care and residential short breaks for children and young people with learning disabilities. It is owned and managed by a local council.

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.

Progress

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

At the last full inspection in August 2012, the overall quality rating for the service was judged as outstanding with three recommendations for improvement made. The home demonstrates continued improvement in the quality of care provided with a clear commitment to service development. Particular strengths of the home include a focused management team and a highly motivated staff team who provide consistent, well-planned care within a nurturing environment.

As required at the previous inspection, the children's guide has been reviewed and updated. It now includes new photographs of the service, details of the complaints procedure and contact details of external advocacy agencies. While the Registered Manager has done as much as she can to progress the matter, young people do not yet have access to this. The final document is yet to be printed as it is subject to approval processes by the local authority publishing department.

A comprehensive policy has now been implemented regarding the use of the keypad

door lock to the main living area. It clearly states the purpose of the lock and how its use serves to protect young people by providing them with as much freedom as possible while keeping them safe. The policy is readily accessible by all staff and the practice is explained to parents, carers and relevant professions.

The final recommendation in relation to the inclusion of young people's achievements in the quality assurance process has been met in a robust and inclusive manner which is above and beyond the recommendation. Each young person now has a 'goal ladder' that pictorially shows their steps towards learning a new skill or task, for example, brushing their teeth independently. Areas for improvement are agreed in consultation with education, parents and other professionals, where appropriate. Young people's successes in achieving these are celebrated through photographs and small gifts or certificates of their choice. Young people's progress is further celebrated in their reviews and evidenced in the home's quality assurance.

Young people continue to benefit from the delivery of well-planned care by a committed and enthusiastic staff team. Young people have a positive view of the care that they receive. Observed interactions show their relationships with staff are rewarding and that they feel safe. Staff set clear and consistent boundaries, which enable young people to positively manage their own behaviour. The high staffing ratio ensures young people benefit from the support and attention they require to access activities while keeping safe. The culture within the service celebrates individuality and diversity. As a result, young people receive excellent care and support based on their individual needs.

Since the last inspection, work has focused on identifying areas for improvement within the service based on input from young people. As a result young people's progress, while using the service, is now evidenced more robustly and young people are better informed about the new skills they have learned.

The young people's focus group, 'Titan's', continues to give young people a voice in decision-making, such as, in the planning of activities and future developments in the service. Examples of such activities include, the 'Fairy tale Ball', to which current and past service users were invited; and their own mini Olympics.

Plans are in place to further implement travel training for young people to increase their independence and for more sleep clinics to be held in the future to support both parents and young people.

Areas for improvement

Recommendations

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

- ensure the registered person approves the Statement of Purpose and the children's guide and reviews them at least annually. In particular ensure the

updated version of the children's guide is published. (NMS 13.3)

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*.