

Inspection report for children's home

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| Unique reference number | SC062309 |
| Inspection date | 15/01/2013 |
| Inspector | Angela Whiteley |
| Type of inspection | Interim |
| Provision subtype | Children's home |

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| Date of last inspection | 20/06/2012 |
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Service information

Brief description of the service

This home is registered to provide care and accommodation for up to six children and young people with physical and learning disabilities and complex health needs. The home is managed by a private organisation.

The inspection judgements and what they mean

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| 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 June 2012, the overall judgement was outstanding. Since then, the service has demonstrated continued improvement in the quality of care and outcomes for children and young people. The manager has addressed the recommendations made at the last inspection.

The Statement of Purpose is a working document, which the organisation has reviewed to provide up-to-date staffing details. Monthly supervision sessions are organised for staff and they confirm they receive good support from the management team and are kept up dated on new developments. The Registered Manager provides additional practice competency sessions to new staff. This ensures they gain the necessary skills to provide the levels of care that are required. Written records are prepared for all supervision sessions and input into the new computer system.

The staff are experienced, competent and fully qualified. They receive specific training from medical professionals that ensures they have the level of skill required to care for children and young people who have profound physical and learning

disabilities and highly complex health needs. All the children and young people benefit from consistent practice that allows their lives to improve. They benefit from the effective application of policies, procedures, systems and practices, which helps staff to safeguard and promote children and young people's welfare. The introduction of a written policy in respect of the use of electronic monitoring devices and written consent forms has further ensured children and young people's welfare is protected.

Children and young people at this home have limited verbal communication skills; staff are adept at ascertaining their views and wishes. Staff encourage a range of communication systems such as gestures, pictures and electronic boards. Additionally, staff use observation skills and their understanding of subtle cues from body language and facial expressions. This ensures children and young people's views carry weight and their needs are central to the smooth running of the home.

Children and young people seem happy, safe and content in the home; their parents confirm this. They settle quickly into placement and make good progress relative to the time they have lived at the home. As a result, young people are achieving positive outcomes in many aspects of their lives. There are excellent examples of partnership working with a broad range of specialist health workers whose contribution is valued by staff and parents. Children and young people are enabled to participate in a broad range of interests, leisure activities and social events. This helps them socialise, build self-esteem and confidence, for example, wheelchair dancing and football. Staff support children and young people in school to enable them to access their education provision. Positive links with schools and colleges provides a consistent approach to children and young people's care. This practice has enabled children to attend school often for the first time as care staff provide full time in-school support.

There are robust quality assurance systems in place that monitor the operation and management of the home, young people's welfare and the home's records. The manager maintains an enthusiastic commitment to children and young people who use the service. A regular review of the quality of care ensures shortfalls are identified and suitable actions taken to address them. For example, purchase of a portable sensory tent, and redecoration and personalisation of two young people's bedrooms. Additionally, adapting the loft space for more storage for children and young people's consumables and establishing a new deputy manager post to reflect the increased management tasks. Also, changes to monthly Regulation 33 and 34 reporting formats better captures data and allows a more robust evaluation of the available information. However, the manager has failed to submit a six-monthly summary report to Ofsted, which is contrary to the requirements of Regulation 34. This administrative shortfall has no negative impact on the welfare and safety of children and young people in placement.

The home continues to develop its service provision to include other children and young people with differing complex health needs. This requires staff to receive additional training from a broad range of specialist health care professionals. The

range of effective measures in place ensures the standards within the home remain high and continue to improve.

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 |
|--------------|---|-----------------|
| 34 (2001) | ensure a report in respect of any review conducted for the purposes of paragraph (1) is provided to Ofsted. (Regulation 34 (2)) | 12/02/2013 |

Recommendations

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

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*.