

Inspection report for children's home

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<b>Inspection date</b>	11/02/2013
<b>Inspector</b>	Maire Atherton
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Interim
<b>Provision subtype</b>	Children's home

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<b>Date of last inspection</b>	17/09/2012
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## Service information

### Brief description of the service

This children's home is a resource centre for children with disabilities and their families and is owned and managed by the local district council. One of the services offered at the centre is residential short break care for children with a disability. It is this aspect of the centre's activity that is regulated under the Children's Homes Regulations 2001. The centre is registered for five young people aged between eight and 17 years who have a learning and/or physical disability; many of the children also present challenging behaviour. Other services offered include day care, after school care, outreach services and a domiciliary care service registered with the Care Quality Commission.

### 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.

## Progress

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

At the last full inspection in September 2012 this children's home was judged to be good overall. Since then the home has demonstrated continued commitment to improving outcomes for children and young people. The home has addressed the one requirement and both recommendations raised at the last inspection. There are none arising from this inspection.

The manager has led the staff team through a thorough audit and evaluation of the recording systems. As a result there is a new format in place to help staff record all the detail required for compliance with the regulations and national minimum standards relating to measures of control, restraint or discipline. In addition the learning points from these records are used promptly to update positive handling

plans where appropriate. There has been a reduction in the use of physical intervention. Staff have achieved this through an earlier recognition of triggers of undesirable behaviour and the deployment of effective distraction and diversion techniques. Simple ideas that have made a significant contribution to the reduction of challenging behaviour include the use of a travelling schedule on display in the bus that shows the whole trip, including any planned stops, for refuelling for example.

The staff audit of care plans has identified the areas for development. The management team is leading the staff team through the process with the aim of achieving a greater degree of consistency in the writing of care plans and to ensure they reflect the actual care delivered. Staff updates to positive handling plans provide staff with a list of appropriate responses to encourage children and young people to express themselves using more socially acceptable behaviour. For example by encouraging children to make choices using picture exchange cards. The plans also identify sanctions staff can use should the interventions prove unsuccessful. There have been no sanctions imposed since the last inspection.

Staff actively seek the views of children and young people using a variety of methods. These extend from day-to-day personal choices, wider issues about life in the home, such as décor of rooms and activities available, and community issues, for example input onto play equipment at a local country park. Display boards show and celebrate the wider choices and reflect children's contributions and achievements.

Since the last inspection, the management team have made good progress in combining the short breaks services into one to provide consistency for children and parents who access more than one aspect of the short break provision. Staff demonstrate a commitment to more flexible working to accommodate changing need and respond to emergency situations. Records are being streamlined so that parents do not need to provide information more than once.

The committed and focused management team have made good progress on achieving the aims of the detailed service development plan. They have taken time to engage staff in the whole improvement process. As a result the staff team are enthusiastic and determined to continue to improve the opportunities and experiences of children and young people. For example a recent team day on play and leisure has given staff a new impetus and energy for ideas for engaging with children and young people.

## 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*.