

## Inspection report for children's home

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<b>Unique reference number</b>	SC409506
<b>Inspection date</b>	11/02/2013
<b>Inspector</b>	Robert Hewston
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Interim
<b>Provision subtype</b>	Children's home

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<b>Date of last inspection</b>	14/08/2012
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## Service information

### Brief description of the service

This home is run by a local authority and is registered to provide care and accommodation for seven children with learning disabilities.

### 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**.

The overall effectiveness of this service was judged as good on the 14th August 2012. Two requirements and two recommendations for improving the service were made at the full inspection and these have all been met.

In recent months the management of the service have reviewed and changed monitoring tools to ensure all people coming into contact with the home have an opportunity to have their opinions listened to. For example, parents' questionnaires show how parents are interested in becoming more involved in the home, looking to set up parent groups, offer support with children approaching adulthood. Social workers' questionnaires raised requests about receiving monthly reports on the progress of children and any concerns. Young people, through different communication aids, have been able to express their wishes and their opinions on their care. Using these formats and improving communication has helped management in developing better monitoring systems in recording regulation 34 reports and evidencing good practice to regulation 33 officers and Ofsted inspectors.

Since the last inspection there have been no incidents where a notification needed to be sent to Ofsted. Training in notified events listed in schedule 5 of the children's

homes regulations has been part of a staff meeting and reflected in management decisions on any issue occurring within the home. Management explained how recent review of policy and procedures has ensured a better understanding regarding their responsibilities towards any notification event.

Previous restrictions on children's transport have been resolved. The home now has a new minibus which is not institutionalised in its appearance. Children are able to use public transport by using different systems, such as the X band tokens and bus passes. This is giving children more opportunities to develop independent skills and social skills for the future.

The previous Registered Manager resigned from the post on the 19 December 2012. Senior managers have kept Ofsted informed of the interim arrangements for the manager's position. A new manager, who is to be put forward for Registered Manager, is to commence work on the 13th February 2013.

During their short placements, children gradually become more involved in structured routines that successfully re-establish such things as attendance at school or college, engaging in positive activities and re-establishing or maintaining family contact. Although the home only provides a short-stay service, staff do everything possible to lessen the impact of changing home or placement. Staff recognise the important attachments young people have already established and work in a way that safely promotes and maintains these relationships. Young people are regularly consulted about their day-to-day arrangements and are fully involved in making decisions about their next placements. Young people feel safe in the home and are enabled to make informed choices about their future arrangements.

Overall, young people continue to receive the necessary support and guidance from a well-supported team of staff who know each young person well. Very stable placements continue to exist because of the longstanding, caring and effective relationships staff have with young people. There is a clear determination, energy, and motivation to continuously improve the care framework of this home. Well-trained and forward thinking staff respect, value and enable young people to achieve their full potential. This successful approach promotes an effective, developmental and child-centred service.

## 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*.