

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	19/02/2013
Inspector	Ann-Marie Born
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	25/07/2012
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Service information

Brief description of the service

This children's resource unit is operated by a local authority. It provides respite short breaks for up to nine children with learning disabilities and complex health care needs and for children who have autism. The service is provided from two sites.

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**.

This home was judged as good at the previous full inspection in July 2012. Following this interim inspection this home is judged to be making good progress and has successfully addressed all five shortfalls outlined in the previous recommendations. No breaches of regulations or shortfalls in meeting the national minimum standards are identified as a result of this inspection.

Much improved, non-stigmatising recording following any episode of restraint ensure that children and young people's views are captured wherever possible. These improvements are enhanced by updated individual behaviour management plans and the use of electronic 'I pads' which have been programmed for individual use by each child or young person. A member of staff said, 'They love it and use it all the time. We are able to work with them much more closely now. It's really made that difference.' A further benefit of this increased communication method has been a significant reduction in the need for physical interventions. Together these measures effectively promote children and young people's well-being, sense of belonging and safety. A staff member said, 'They can have the experience they want to have.'

Children and young people are safeguarded by the energetic and enthusiastic management team who ensure they continue to experience genuine care from a nurturing and dedicated staff team. There is a strong commitment to training to ensure that all staff members, including those newly appointed, are qualified and trained to meet the assessed needs of children and young people being cared for by the home. A parent stated, 'She's learning independence things here she wouldn't even be able to do at home.'

Parents report extremely positively about the significantly improved Statement of Purpose. Comments include, 'It is really useful,' and, 'I like knowing who is caring for my child.' Parents also enjoy attending the regular 'coffee mornings' which provide them with the opportunity to meet with staff members and each other. Children and young people thrive in the home as their parents' confidence and trust in their care increases. A parent stated, 'I was really anxious at first but my child loves it here and is perfectly safe.'

Children and young people enjoy their short breaks in a safe, caring and stimulating environment which is well equipped to meet their needs. The home is warm and welcoming, with fixtures and fittings appropriate to a homely setting, including radiators which are now covered to make them safe. Children and young people report that they 'love it here' and one young person stated she 'likes learning how to help'.

The home has maintained a good quality of care for children and young people and continues to improve outcomes. Innovative new pictorial reports for reviews provide children and young people with the opportunity to comment on the care they receive and have further understanding of their development. An independent reviewing officer commented that, 'Reports are vastly improved with lots of pictures.'

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*.