

## Inspection report for children's home

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<b>Inspection date</b>	07/03/2013
<b>Inspector</b>	Rosemary Dancer
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Interim
<b>Provision subtype</b>	Children's home

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<b>Date of last inspection</b>	20/11/2012
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## Service information

### Brief description of the service

This children's home is a purpose-built complex run by a registered charity in partnership with a local authority. The home provides short stay services to children and young people who have high support needs. The home is split into two units; it provides services for up to 12 children and young people at any one time.

### 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 **satisfactory progress**.

The last inspection of this service was carried out in November 2012 the home was judged overall as adequate. The inspection found that the outcomes for children and the quality of care were good. As a result of that inspection there were five requirements and six recommendations made to improve practice in the home. Two of the requirements have been fully met and this progress means that: there is now an up-to-date Statement of Purpose that informs parents and other interested parties of the aims and objectives of the home; the two managers put forward as potential Registered Managers for the two houses are going through the registration process with Ofsted.

Further requirements related to some of the arrangements for fire safety. A significant amount of work has been carried out to address the issues relating to these shortfalls. For example, the practice of wedging doors open has ceased and doors now have appropriate seals and shut flush to the frame. These improvements mean that risks from smoke inhalation and from a fire spreading have been

minimised. Information has been developed and is displayed around the houses about what to do in the event of the fire bell sounding; this information has been developed in a range of formats to ensure that everyone staying or working in the home or visiting it can access and understand it. These improvements mean that fire safety arrangements have been vastly improved. The remaining matter, in relation to fire safety, relates to ensuring that all staff and young people have taken part in an evacuation so that they are aware of the procedure; there is a shortfall in recording the names of participants in the drills. This means it is difficult to monitor who has and who has not been involved.

There has been some progress in improving the recording of physical interventions; however, not all recording shows the full names of the people concerned and there is no section to record conversations with the child and members of staff concerned about the use of the measure. This means that it may not be clear who the intervention relates to and what the people involved felt about its use.

Finally, in relation to the requirement about monitoring visits carried out under Regulation 33, there is no record that such a visit took place in December 2012 and consequently no report has been made and forwarded to Ofsted. These gaps in the monitoring arrangements could mean that the responsible individual and Ofsted are not informed about issues in a timely way.

In respect to the recommendations, the arrangements for medication have improved because the cabinet for storing controlled medication has been secured to a solid wall and is now safely and securely fixed. The cabinets within children's bedrooms have been subject to clear risk assessments. These identify that the levels of risk to children from, either injuring themselves by bumping into a cabinet, or through gaining unauthorised access to the contents, are acceptable.

Work has been carried out to ensure that a written policy has been developed that sets out the arrangements for the use of electronic listening devices. Additionally, written risk assessments have been carried out for each child in relation to the use of these. This ensures that the use of these devices is based on each child's needs and they are used to safeguard children's welfare.

Progress has also been made in developing information to keep in the home to show that each member of staff has been appropriately recruited and that information about staff training is recorded and kept up to date. Arrangements have also been developed in relation to carrying out a six-monthly review report under Schedule 6 of the regulations. This is to aid the development of the service. This has not been achieved as the timescale of six months has not yet been reached.

While not all of the issues have been fully addressed there has been satisfactory progress made in the short space of time since the last inspection.

There were no children staying at the home on the day of this inspection because the whole staff team were taking part in a team building day for staff across the organisation. This was arranged, following significant changes within the

organisation, as an opportunity for staff to get together to discuss and understand how the organisation is to move forward. It was noteworthy that all staff, including night and agency staff, had been invited to attend this day and this indicates that the organisation really values its staff at whatever level they are within the organisation.

The home continues to maintain a robust approach to planning for each child's stay to ensure that children get the best out of their time in the home. This is especially apparent in the sensitively shown to ensuring that children are placed with others with whom they are compatible; this minimises the potential for conflict and upset.

## 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
17B (2001)	ensure that following the use of any measure of restraint the full name of the child and confirmation that the person authorised to make the record has spoken to the child concerned and the person using the measure about the use of the measure (Regulation 17B (3) (a) and (h))	05/04/2013
33 (2001)	ensure that visits under Regulation 33 paragraph 1 or 2 take place at least once a month. (Regulation 33 (3))	05/04/2013

### Recommendations

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

- ensure that all staff and children are familiar with the emergency escape plan; this is with specific reference to ensuring that the names of staff and children involved during each evacuation are recorded for ease of monitoring who has not taken part in a drill (NMS 10.9)
- progress the arrangements for ensuring that sufficient information (written or electronic) is retained at the home, demonstrating that the recruitment and selection of staff consistently follows good practice, and all applicable current statutory requirements and guidance (NMS 16.2)
- progress the arrangements for ensuring that training data is up to date. (NMS 18.2)

## 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*.