

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC457423
Inspection date	28/01/2014
Inspector	Natalie Burton
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	21/08/2013
--------------------------------	------------

© Crown copyright 2014

Website: www.ofsted.gov.uk

This document may be reproduced in whole or in part for non-commercial educational purposes, provided that the information quoted is reproduced without adaptation and the source and date of publication are stated.

Service information

Brief description of the service

This home is registered to provide care and accommodation for four young people with learning disabilities. A charitable organisation owns and operates this setting. The organisation provides a separately registered education facility which is based locally.

The home was registered in February 2013.

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**.

The home was judged as adequate at the last inspection in August 2013. Since that time the manager has addressed the two requirements and five recommendations that were raised. The home has continued to make significant progress, which has led to positive outcomes for young people.

The service has an updated written policy for behaviour management, which clearly outlines that restriction of liberty is not permitted within the home. In addition, physical intervention records and measures of control used shows that strategies used to manage challenging behaviour are not excessive or unreasonable. This is because staff have received clear guidance for managing behaviour management, and a clearer focus on intervention through the use of distraction and defusing challenging behaviour is implemented at an earlier stage. As a result, young people are treated with respect and dignity and there is a significant decrease in incidents.

Effective sharing of information with placing authorities has improved. The home actively seeks and ensures they receive information requested including young people's care plans and review minutes. In addition placing authorities benefit from frequent communication. One social worker reported 'they provide good communication and are very thorough'. This enables them to effectively monitor the quality of each placement; young people and staff are clear around plans and actions for individual young people.

The Registered Manager has taken appropriate actions to ensure that the five recommendations from the last inspection have been fully addressed. Regular supervision sessions ensure that staff are able to share their concerns, ideas for improvement and discuss the progress that young people make. In addition, these records are signed at the end of supervision. As a result, young people benefit as they are cared for by staff that are well supported by managers.

The young people's guide has been updated to include information of how young people can contact Ofsted, an independent advocate and about their rights. Young people benefit as they are provided with information that may be helpful to them now or in the future if they wish to raise a concern.

The manager has completed and implemented a lone working risk assessment. This informs staff of action to take to keep themselves and young people safe. For example, ensure they carry the mobile telephone with them at all times. As a result, any potential risks to young people and staff are identified and action is taken to reduce the risk.

The manager has written and implemented a development plan. This includes ensuring the property is personalised and reflects the characters of the young people living there and opportunities for young people to be involved within activities in the community. As a result, the plan identifies how the service can improve the quality of care provided to young people.

The organisation has made appropriate improvements to their recruitment checks. For example, all staff have references and these have been verbally verified by the organisation before they begin their work at the home. Young people benefit through a robust recruitment system that ensures they are cared for by a staff team that are suitably vetted.

The actions taken by the manager to meet the requirements and recommendations from inspections, demonstrates a clear commitment to continuous improvement. In addition, staff are able to reflect on the progress the service has made since the last inspection. One member of staff reported that 'the home is so different now, everything has improved and there are so many life skills being taught to the young people'. Some young people have made progress in their confidence through work experience and leading a cookery group for other young people. Other young people have made progress in their contact with family, engagement in life skills; such as making their own breakfast and interacting with their peers.

Staff have a clearer understanding of the needs of the young people, with staff engaging and motivating young people to access activities and an improvement in their communication. This is because young people's support plans are more up to date and give clear guidance and information to staff. Staffing levels and appropriate assessment of young people prior to admission, ensures that young people are able to experience activities in the community, such as youth clubs and swimming. Quality of care has improved, with more positive engagement with young people and high levels of supervision provided to young people when needed. This has additionally improved the safety of young people and reduced significant events.

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*.