

## Inspection report for children's home

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<b>Inspection date</b>	03/02/2014
<b>Inspector</b>	Keith Riley / Kenneth Smith
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Interim
<b>Provision subtype</b>	Children's home

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<b>Date of last inspection</b>	30/08/2013
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## Service information

### Brief description of the service

The home can accommodate up to 26 Young people in four separate houses based on the same site. The home caters for young people with a variety of disabilities, primarily epilepsy, autism and learning difficulties. The home is operated by a registered charity.

### 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 inspection in August 2013 the home was judged to be outstanding in all areas. Young people continue to receive an exceedingly high level of quality care and support by dedicated staff. Placement plans contain excellent information to guide staff with considerable input from other professionals, such as the organisation's psychologist. This ensures there is specific information about individual needs, for example to care effectively for young people on the autistic spectrum. This means that young people make excellent progress such as being able to attend school and managing transitions, with minimal anxiety, from the school to the home. Consequently, challenging behaviours are significantly decreasing.

There is excellent medical care and management of epilepsy resulting in extremely positive outcomes. Professionals, such as a paediatric neurologist, have considerable input into epilepsy management plans. There are extremely positive outcomes, for example a significant reduction in the type or number of seizures over many years. Risk assessments guide staff who demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of the risks and actions to be taken, including the need to call upon specialist medical

advice and intervention when necessary. However, not all established and agreed protocols with medical staff, for example the process followed when there is refusal of anti-epileptic medication, are written down in full detail. Staff demonstrate a thorough understanding of the issues and actions to be taken and young people are not at immediate risk as a result.

Safeguarding arrangements continue to be extremely robust. The management take swift and robust action, in consultation with other professionals, to ensure that young people are kept as safe as possible. Since the last inspection the soft play area has been reviewed by the occupational therapist to confirm its on-going suitability for the young people who now access it. The new behavioural support program, adopted by the home at the last inspection, is now fully embedded into the culture. Staff speak very positively of the approach with particular emphasis on de-escalation and distraction skills. This lessens the need for physical interventions. Positive behaviour is promoted through reward systems, such as young people earning minutes to play electronic games. This means there is no need to apply sanctions.

There is excellent placement planning and management. The Registered Manager ensures there is a comprehensive assessment prior to placement and that all necessary documentation is in place. Transitions are carefully managed as well as the unique and individual needs of each young person during their time in the home. This gives placements at the home every chance of success. Placement breakdowns are rare. New admissions, since the last inspection, are currently successful.

The menu has been revised and now includes a weekly 'world awareness meal'. Young people are learning about other cultures. Staff prepare the evening meal while young people are at school and this meets the recommendation from the previous inspection, that staffing levels around mealtimes be reviewed.

Staff ensure they continue to promote independence and there is excellent progress such as young people being able to manage their own personal care. The Registered Manager has introduced independence passes for travel, where the risks are fully assessed so young people are taking the first steps to more independence, such as being able to move from one building to another on their own.

Education continues to be a strength with all young people attending the organisation's school. Care staff and education staff work closely together to ensure the best possible outcomes, for example home learning takes place regularly, regardless of the cognitive ability of the young person.

The senior management team are thorough in identifying areas of improvement. Action plans are diverse; from improving the recording of individual goals to plans to further develop the home for young people with high sensory needs. Relationships and communication with parents are much improved. Young people make excellent progress such as young people, on the autistic spectrum, being able to have overnight contact, which they have previously struggled with.

This is an outstanding home led by a management team who, although experts in

their specialisms, ensure there is a culture of continuous improvement to improve outcomes for the young people in their care.

## **Areas for improvement**

### **Recommendations**

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

- ensure staff receive written guidance to provide appropriate care for children with complex health needs. (NMS 6.8)

## 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*.