

## Inspection report for children's home

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<b>Unique reference number</b>	SC406505
<b>Inspection date</b>	03/02/2014
<b>Inspector</b>	Simon Morley
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Interim
<b>Provision subtype</b>	Children's home

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<b>Date of last inspection</b>	30/05/2013
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## Service information

### Brief description of the service

The home is run by the local authority. It is registered to provide accommodation and care for up to 12 boys and girls. Children usually stay at the home for short-breaks spread across the year for up to a maximum total of 35 days per year.

### 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 last full inspection of the home was on 30 June 2013. The overall effectiveness at that time was judged to be good with outstanding judgements for outcomes for children and young people as well as leadership and management. Good judgements were made for the quality of care and safeguarding. There was one recommendation for improvement with regard to the restrictions in place preventing children and young people independently accessing the garden and outside play area.

This recommendation has been met and is part of the care plan and assessment for all children and young people. Health and safety factors have also been taken into account as part of the assessment. Outdoor access is still mechanically restricted. However, appropriate staffing and supervision of children and young people does allow them access to the grounds.

There is a strong focus on continually improving the service led by the manager. The manager keeps staff motivated and enthusiastic in providing a high quality service to very vulnerable children and young people.

There is good evidence that children and young people continue to progress and

achieve positive outcomes. As a result the home is judged to be making good progress.

The manager has worked hard to secure additional staffing. This helps ensure the current numbers of children and young people using the service benefit from high standards of care. The staff are well trained and receive regular refresher training on key aspects on their work. Children with complex health needs such as percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy (PEG) feeding and epilepsy are effectively supported by staff trained to meet their individual needs.

Levels of consultation and inclusion of children and young in their care and their experiences of their short-breaks is improving. This gives them a better say in their care and helps develop their communication and social skills. Care is more focussed on supporting children and young people to achieve realistic targets based on their diverse needs. This helps children and young people improve their personal care, self-help skills and independence.

Staff use the principles of restorative practice when children and young people to improve their behaviour. Along with the positive, caring relationships this helps children and young people make good progress with their behaviour, particularly when compared to their starting points on admission. Children and young people, their parents and stakeholders frequently compliment the staff team about the achievements children and young people make and the excellent quality of care. Any concerns raised by parents are comprehensively looked into; this helps to reassure parents about the care of their children.

The manager is clear about the strengths of the home and areas for further improvement. There is a realistic development plan in place with clear targets for future progress. Care practice and record keeping is routinely monitored with any shortfalls promptly addressed. The registered provider also regularly monitors the management arrangements and quality of care. Subsequent written reports are mainly descriptive and lack rigour with regard to evaluating how well the service supports children and young people to achieve. These reports have not been sent to HMCI, Ofsted on a monthly basis as required. This compromises how well the registered provider can secure future improvements in the service.

Apart from these shortfalls the manager is effective in ensuring children and young people continue to benefit from a good service.

## **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
33 (2001)	ensure copies of reports required to be made under this regulation are sent to Ofsted on a monthly basis. (Regulation 33 (9)(a))	28/03/2014

## Recommendations

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

- ensure that visits to the home carried out under Regulation 33 scrutinise how the home is supporting children to enjoy and achieve. (Statutory Guidance, Volume 5, Paragraph 3.12)

## 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*.