

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	10/03/2014
Inspector	Emeline Evans
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	12/11/2013
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Service information

Brief description of the service

This is a short-break unit which provides day care, and residential short breaks for five children and young people with learning disabilities. It is owned and managed by a local council.

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**.

At the full inspection in November 2013, the overall quality rating for the service was judged as good with two requirement's and three recommendations set within the inspection report.

This children's home demonstrates continued improvement in the quality of care provided with a clear and focused commitment to service development and achieving positive outcomes for young people. This has included managers evaluating the current level of service, successfully addressing the requirements and recommendations from the previous inspection, and progressing the service development plan.

Since the last inspection, managers have completely reviewed and revised quality assurance systems. The acting manager now completes schedule 6 checks on a regular basis to monitor the home's compliance with policies and this results in awareness of key issues and any patterns or trends are identified. The manager has gained feedback from their internal quality assurance officer on the monitoring process to enhance this further.

The Statement of Purpose has been reviewed following the last inspection. This has resulted in a comprehensive document more accurately reflecting the service provided in relation to the management arrangements and the experience of the staff team. There is a clear focus on the aims and ethos of the home.

In recent months, the manager and staff team have looked in detail at how they consult with the young people accessing the service. Individual communication assessments have taken place and young people have been empowered in this process and been fully involved in re-decoration of the house and undertaken their own review of the service offered. This has resulted in further enhancing young people's self-esteem and confidence. Shift planning has been changed to reflect these changes and there is a focus in both gaining views from young people in various imaginative ways and observing young people's behaviours. Records following incidents of restraint are now more detailed and young people are encouraged to have their views recorded. There is very detailed analysis following all incidents within the home. The home continues to work closely with the behaviour support specialist to identify triggers. This has resulted in a decrease in physical intervention used.

The home uses listening monitors in one of the bedrooms; the use of the listening monitors is for the purpose of safeguarding certain young people. However, there is not an up to date policy in place to guide staff on the appropriate use and management of such devices and how they promote the welfare of young people.

Young people are protected through the implementation of a range of risk assessments. These now include reasons for restriction to some parts of the building. 'Talking switches' have now been put in place around the home to enable the young people to request areas of the home they would like to access. In addition, these now inform young people of what is on the menu. Bedroom doors have been reviewed and they are no longer fitted with locks that cannot be opened from the inside.

Since the last inspection, much work has been done to evaluate the current level of service and to plan ahead for future areas of development for the coming year. The staff team are very proud of the young people's achievements and young people continue to receive well-planned care provided by a committed and competent staff team. Staff provide clear boundaries within a caring environment and the home has continued to provide young people with an excellent quality of care and enjoyable and fun visits.

Areas for improvement

Recommendations

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

- produce a written policy that sets out how electronic listening devices should be used, how they promote the welfare of children, how children will be informed of their use, how legitimate privacy of children will be protected and how children will be protected from potential abuse of such measures. (NMS 10.5)

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*.