

Inspection report for children's home

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<b>Unique reference number</b>	SC039900
<b>Inspection date</b>	18/03/2014
<b>Inspector</b>	Jo Stephenson
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Interim
<b>Provision subtype</b>	Children's home

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<b>Date of last inspection</b>	21/11/2013
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## Service information

### Brief description of the service

This local authority owned home provides care for up to seven children. The home can accommodate children with moderate to severe learning and/or physical disabilities.

### 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 home was judged as outstanding at the last full inspection in November 2013. The home has continued to provide exceptional care for young people and is judged to be making good progress at this inspection. The service has addressed the two recommendations made at the last inspection. For example, the breadth of training programmes available for staff to reflect the needs of young people have been reviewed. As a result, positive outcomes for young people are constantly promoted.

Since the last inspection the Registered Manager has reviewed the training programme for staff. Transition training has been arranged to support young people to seamlessly move to their adult placements. This means that young people receive a bespoke service that reflects their current and future accommodation and support needs. Subsequently, young people benefit from a comprehensive support package that will carry them through to adulthood. Furthermore, effective partnerships with external agencies mean that staff access disability specific training, such as massage therapy. As a result, young people work with competent and skilled staff who are able to meet their complex care needs. This promotes young people's development and well-being.

The Registered Manager ensures that the quality of care and outcomes for young people are effectively monitored. Revised monitoring systems reflect regulatory changes and balance analysis and evaluation. This means that the Registered Manager is able to identify patterns and trends within the home; and the quality of care provided for young people is continually reviewed. As result, young people thrive in an evolving service that adapts to meet their changing care and welfare needs.

Young people flourish in the nurturing and relaxed atmosphere in the home. Relationships between young people and staff are excellent and this is a considerable strength of the home. Staff effectively consult with young people on all aspects of their care through the use of non-verbal and picture exchange communication systems. For example, young people regularly discuss and plan holidays and activities. Furthermore, staff ensure that young people are able to access community resources and leisure activities, such as sports and youth clubs. As a result, young people are able to develop friendships and learn new skills. This means that young people are not isolated from their peer groups and are able to develop their social interaction skills.

Staff maintain young people's case files to an exceptionally high standard. Internal placement plans and risk assessments are extremely detailed and reflect the individual needs of young people. These are further supported by up-to-date statutory plans that identify the aims and objectives of the placing authority. Staff regularly review and amend internal support plans. This ensures that young people's progress is effectively monitored and their achievements celebrated. As a result, young people experience improved self-esteem and confidence. This further supports their personal development.

Young people are safe in the home and there have been no complaints since the last inspection. Robust safeguarding and child protection procedures mean that staff work to clear and consistent boundaries. As a result, young people benefit from a comprehensive and integrated approach to assessing their risks and managing their behaviours. The use of restraint is rare. Records demonstrate that this intervention is only ever used as a last resort; when young people are a risk to themselves or others. This means that young people's safety and welfare is continually promoted and monitored.

## 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*.