

## Inspection report for children's home

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<b>Unique reference number</b>	SC060327
<b>Inspection date</b>	25/02/2014
<b>Inspector</b>	Maureen Hamer
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Interim
<b>Provision subtype</b>	Children's home

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<b>Date of last inspection</b>	21/08/2013
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## Service information

### Brief description of the service

The service provides short breaks for up to five young people with learning difficulties, sensory impairment or physical disabilities. It is provided by a local 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 overall quality rating for the service was good. Two requirements were made and have been met. The home has made good progress.

The home provides short breaks for children. No children were in the home at the time of the interim inspection. Staff are very supportive and provide individualised care. Parents report that children look forward to their short break and are provided with good support to help them to choose activities that they enjoy. They are well-supported to develop skills such as social skills and this is increasing their self-confidence and helps them to engage and to form friendships. Children are also encouraged to attend to their own personal needs and this maximises their independence.

A new manager has been appointed and has submitted an application to be the home's Registered Manager. The home also benefits from a competent deputy manager, who has provided good support to staff during the previous manager's period of absence.

Young people's files are now appropriately completed with the necessary information including their legal status; this promotes clear accountability. Quality assurance reports are now comprehensive and report on aspects of care to identify strengths and concerns in the service. Action is taken to address any shortfalls.

Parents report that they trust the home and know that their children are safe. They say that there is good on-going communication with staff about the activities that children have been engaged in. In addition, staff keep them well informed of any incidents that have occurred during the stay.

The home shows some flexibility in when they provide a break for children. Parents state that this has proved helpful when an unplanned event such as illness that hinders their capacity to care for their child takes place at home. The home is well cared for and bedrooms are homely.

The home rarely uses physical interventions however the log book does not ask staff to include all necessary information such as a debrief for the child. This reduces the amount of information available for evaluation. These events are discussed in regular staff supervision and staff meetings that are child-focused. Staff state that they feel very well supported. This shortfall has had no impact on children.

## 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
17B (2001)	ensure that within 24 hours of the use of any measure of control, restraint or discipline in a children's home, a written record is made in a volume kept for that purpose that includes confirmation that the person authorised by the registered provider has spoken to the child concerned and the person using the measure about the use of the measure. (Regulation (17B)(3)(h))	30/04/2014

## 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*.