

Monitoring report for a Children's Home

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<b>Inspector</b>	Natalie Burton

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## **Service information**

### **Brief description of the service**

This home is registered to provide care and accommodation for five young people with learning disabilities. A charitable organisation owns and operates this setting. The organisation provides a separately registered education facility which is based locally.

The home was registered in February 2013.

### **Outcome of monitoring visit**

On the 30 September 2014 a full inspection was undertaken by two inspectors. The visit found that the home was judged as overall inadequate. This is because the home was not homely or safe, there was a lack of important information regarding children's health, errors and omissions in medication administration and physical intervention that has led to restriction of children's liberty. In addition, there was a lack of effective monitoring within the home to identify the shortfalls found. As a result of the inspection, eleven requirements and five compliance notices were made to improve the quality of care and safety of children.

On the 30 October 2014 a monitoring inspection was undertaken by an inspector. This was to evaluate if the five compliance notices had been sufficiently met.

The visit found the environment of the home has improved. The organisation has replaced broken windows, painted inside of the home, and replaced a broken television. While on occasion, there continues to be some damage; management have implemented a system to include a clearer expectation from the organisation to have a timely response to maintenance requests. Children and young people now live in a home that is reasonably decorated and more homely. The organisation has now made the home safe for children and young people. This is because previous broken thermostats that had been taped to the wall in the home have now been repaired and a box preventing further damage has been placed over the thermostats. Children and young people are now sufficiently protected as far as practicable from hazards to their health and safety.

Medication is now administered in line with children and young people's prescription. Previous misadministration errors have been addressed by management to prevent a reoccurrence. This has involved staff demonstrating to management how to administer and record medication administered to children and young people. In addition, management have installed a medication alarm. This is an additional measure to staff awareness that medication is due to be administered. Children and young people's records clearly record all important information with regard to their health. All staff have signed to demonstrate their awareness of information, for example, with regard to allergies. Night staff have been provided with the necessary equipment, such as a walkie talkie, to alert sleep in staff if additional support is needed through the night. As a result, children and

young people's health needs are sufficiently met.

Measures of control used since the last inspection are reasonable. Staff have not placed children and young people in seclusion, that restricts their liberty. Senior management have provided staff with guidelines to reduce the use of seclusion, with a clear message that seclusion must not be used, except in an emergency response. In addition, this has been discussed in a staff meeting, and training will be provided for staff through a workshop on restrictive practice. Therefore, children and young people's behaviour is managed in line with their behaviour management plans and when measures of control are used, these are reasonable and not excessive to the behaviour presented. This helps children and young people to live in an environment and culture that promotes and supports positive behaviour that staff understand and implement.

As a result of the visit, Ofsted are satisfied with the action the home has taken in response to the five compliance notices made. Ofsted will continue to further monitor the home.

## **About this monitoring visit**

The purpose of this visit was to monitor the action taken and progress made by the Children's Home following an Ofsted inspection.