

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspector	Jennie Christopher
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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 (March 2011)*.

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.

Service information

Brief description of the service

This private children's home can accommodate eight children with physical and learning disabilities. There is a garden with wheelchair access to the ground floor of the building. There is a lift to the first floor but this floor is not fully accessible to people using wheelchairs.

Progress

Since their previous inspection the service is judged to be making **good** progress.

At the last inspection in May 2011, the overall quality rating for the service was judged as satisfactory with four requirements and three recommendations for improvement being made. The home demonstrates improvement in the quality of care provided with a clear and focused commitment to staff development. A particular strength of the home is the strong management structure and the commitment of the staff team who are clearly very passionate about promoting good outcomes for young people.

The areas for improvement identified at the last inspection in relation to health and record keeping has been met with a new robust health recording system. Records of all health related concerns and appointments are recorded on a new computerised monitoring system, ensuring appointments and health needs are not missed. Young people's health also benefits from a highly effective daily log documenting individual food and fluid intake. Young people have benefited from staff training around health and nutrition; meals are now more balanced with young people encouraged to choose healthier options for themselves. Young people are encouraged to weigh themselves monthly at the local doctor's surgery to ensure a healthy weight is maintained. Staff say they feel empowered by the implementation of flow charts of who to contact in differing medical situations and now feel confident in their abilities to manage young people's medical needs.

Other areas for improvement regarding safeguarding have been met. Young people have benefited directly from involvement in the policy development process in line with the local authority. Young people are protected further through staff receiving more guidance on who to contact for safeguarding concerns. Young people are able to record their views after a restraint has happened, however, the restraint records are not in a format that cannot be tampered with..

Young people receive well planned care provided by a committed staff team who have grown in confidence. The culture within the home promotes young people's individuality and equality with a clear focus on abilities. The home has a strong focus on community involvement. Young people benefit from a cohesive staff team that care for them in line with their individual plans. Young people have a positive view of

the care that they receive and say that their relationships with staff are good. Young people are able to identify staff they can go to if with any issues and said they feel safe.

Since the last inspection, the new management team have identified and worked on area for development, while planning ahead for the coming year. They have been particularly effective in bolstering staff confidence in their own abilities, which provides better care and outcomes for young people. Effective monitoring systems are in place with high levels of consultation with young people and staff. This review of the quality of care that children receive identifies areas where outcomes for young people can be improved. The manager has made an application to be registered with Ofsted.

Some areas of the accommodation are not maintained to a good standard, in particular the bathrooms and toilets.

Areas for improvement

Recommendations

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

- ensure that records of restraint are in a format that cannot be tampered with after the event (Children's Act 1989 Guidance and Regulations Volume 5, statutory guidance, paragraph 2.91)
- ensure the home is well maintained and decorated, with specific regard to unpleasant odours, and the fixtures and fittings in bathrooms and toilets. (NMS 10.3)