

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC040175
Inspection date	25/03/2013
Inspector	Caroline Wilson
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	27/06/2012
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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.

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**.

This home was judged as good at the last full inspection in June 2012. That inspection led to one statutory requirement being made. This was to ensure that full and satisfactory information is made available about staff before they begin working there. This was primarily in relation to gaps in some employees' employment history. This requirement has been met. Not only has the home ensured that this information is available for existing staff, but the home's application form has been revised so that this information is requested at the point of application.

One safeguarding referral was made following an allegation made by a young person against staff, including the Registered Manager. Safeguarding procedures were robustly implemented to ensure the well-being and protection of young people during the course of the investigation. However, Ofsted were not notified of a significant incident that occurred. The impact of this was minimised, as the matter was reported to the relevant safeguarding professionals for investigation. There is a strong senior management team who are committed to ensuring providing high quality care. They have employed a team of staff, including a manager, who is in

place to ensure that the home continues to run in a manner which safeguards, protects and promote young people's welfare.

The home's leadership and management are committed to continuous improvement. Annual meetings are convened which review the service that is provided and the home strives to make developments for the future. A formalised consultation process for young people is in place as part of recommendations from these reviews. Young people and staff are involved in setting individual and group targets which will improve overall outcomes for young people every two months in addition to their weekly residents' meeting. During a recent consultation meeting, it was identified that the majority of young people are reaching the age of transition into independence. Targets have been set for them to achieve a variety of life-skills which will ensure that move successfully into adult living. In addition to learning how to cook and clean, young people learn skills that will support them in their employment aspirations. Subject to relevant risk assessments, young people are involved in the maintenance and health and safety inspections of the home. There are also employment opportunities within the organisation for young people who display an interest and who exhibit the necessary skills and knowledge.

Young people's input into the smooth running of the home is highly valued. They have recently contributed to the reviewing of key policies, such as safeguarding and complaints. This has ensured that these are accessible to young people as well as enabling to gain knowledge of how to keep themselves safe and who they can contact both within and outside of the organisation if they are unhappy with any aspect of living at the home. Young people make good use of the complaints system and their views and opinions are listened to and acted upon in a timely manner. The home is in the process of recruiting a 'Makaton' specialist so that all staff are up to date with this method of communication so that all young people can contribute their views.

Behavioural management guidelines are robust and clearly identify risk factors and how they can be minimised to prevent the situation escalating. This has meant that restraints are only used in situations to prevent likely injury to the young person, others or damage to property. Records of restraints clearly account for the method of intervention used and other information that is set out. Information with regards to the location is not included in the bound book that it set for this purpose. The impact of this is minimised, as the home has a separate more detailed notification of physical intervention that contains this information.

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
17A (2001)	ensure that the location and the effectiveness of any form of restraint is written in a bound book set for this purpose (Regulation 17 (4) (d) (f))	30/04/2013
16 (2001)	ensure that Ofsted are notified of the instigation of any child protection enquiry involving a young person (Regulation 16 (2) (c))	30/04/2013

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*.