

Inspection report for children's home

---

<b>Unique reference number</b>	SC040175
<b>Inspection date</b>	18/03/2014
<b>Inspector</b>	Jennie Christopher
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Interim
<b>Provision subtype</b>	Children's home

---

<b>Date of last inspection</b>	26/06/2013
--------------------------------	------------

---

© Crown copyright 2014

Website: [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)

This document may be reproduced in whole or in part for non-commercial educational purposes, provided that the information quoted is reproduced without adaptation and the source and date of publication are stated.

## 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

<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 **satisfactory progress**.

At the last full inspection in June 2013, the overall quality rating for the service was judged as good. One requirement was made to appoint a home manager, which has been met. The home demonstrates improvement in many areas under the new Registered Manager, who has a focused commitment to service development. A particular strength of the home is the enthusiasm of the management team and consistency of the knowledgeable staff team.

Since the last inspection the appointment of a new management team has led to positive developments in many areas of practice. Of particular significance is the active involvement of young people in decision making in as many aspects of their lives as possible. This includes greater privacy through encouraging young people to use the locks on bedroom doors and greater involvement in house meetings. All young people are encouraged to give their views on what has taken place in the home over the week and what they would like to happen differently the following week. There is an increased use of alternative communication methods to ensure all

young people's views are taken into account. Newly developed communication passports provide staff and relevant visitors with detailed communication tools for individual young people, including topics they are interested in. These have helped young people to be understood with greater effect and improved independence through increased choice. Further these documents highlight signs of frustration or boredom the young person may display and how to respond to indicators that the young person maybe about to act inappropriately. As a result, young people are engaged in more activities and have support to manage their unwanted behaviour. Monthly reports have been amended to provide a more comprehensive overview of young people's progress. As a result young people's outcomes and areas for development are identified with greater effect.

Evaluative reports in relation to Regulation 33 monitoring visits identify areas for improvement within practice and the home environment, although they have not been consistently completed monthly. Monthly monitoring by managers demonstrates a good level of evaluation of trends and patterns. Six monthly evaluations have not been forwarded to Ofsted. The Registered Manager and Responsible Individual are aware of changes in regulations and are working to ensure the home meets these effectively, including the appointment of independent monthly visitors. Notifiable events within the home are rare, however on the one occasion when this should have occurred Ofsted were not informed of the incident in a timely manner.

Young people continue to receive well planned care from a committed and experienced staff team. The atmosphere within the home is calm and promotes a positive living environment for young people. Young people are positive about the care they receive saying they 'like' the home. Observed interactions demonstrate their relationships with staff are good, and include appropriate banter. Staff work as a team with clear and consistent boundaries, encouraging young people to be as independent as possible. The high staffing ratio ensures young people benefit from the support they require to access activities in the home and in the community while keeping safe.

## **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 monitoring under Regulation 33 includes visiting the home at least once a month (Volume 5, Statutory Guidance, paragraph 3.12)
- ensure a copy of evaluations of manager's monthly reports, as stated in Regulation 34, are sent to HMCI within twenty eight days of completion (Volume 5, Statutory Guidance, paragraph 3.14)
- ensure there is a system in place to notify within 24 hours the persons and appropriate authorities of the occurrence of significant events in accordance with

Regulation 30. Ensure the system includes what to do where a notifiable event arises at weekends. (NMS 24.1)

## 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*.