

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC000802
Inspection date	09/10/2012
Inspector	Stephen Smith
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	26/06/2012
--------------------------------	------------

© Crown copyright 2012

Website: 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 privately run children's home is registered to care for up to four young people, whose primary needs arise from emotional or behavioural difficulties.

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 **satisfactory progress**.

The home's overall effectiveness was judged as inadequate at the last full inspection in June 2012. The shortfalls identified related to the safeguarding of young people; the support for their education and their full involvement in their own care and the running of the home; and the leadership and management of the home.

The home has made satisfactory progress since the last inspection. This has impacted favourably on young people, although there is further work for the home to do.

All of the nine requirements made at the last inspection have been addressed. These related to; the need to improve young people's risk assessments and the quality of recording when young people are absent without authority; arrangements to promote children's educational achievement including suitable facilities for study; the provision of suitable levels of staffing and staff training, supervision and appraisal; and the quality of the manager's monitoring of the operation of the home. Young people living in the home benefit from the resulting improvements in the care provided to them. They are safer and receive better support to achieve because of

the improvements in care delivery and management arrangements.

In addition to these requirements, eleven recommendations were made at the last inspection. Six of these have been addressed. They related to: the support for young people for their transition to adulthood; the arrangements to consult with young people; the quality and individuality of young people's Placement Plans; the home's lone working risk assessment; and the arrangements to report to Ofsted on the outcome of the manager's monitoring. In addressing these recommendations the home has further improved the care delivered to young people by ensuring it is more individualised, focused on young people's needs, safer and better managed.

However, five recommendations made at the last inspection have not been addressed. Although no young person has been absent from the home without authority since the last inspection, arrangements for responding to young people when they return from being missing or absent without authority are still not good enough. Records provide no way to evidence of the work done to support the young people, arrange access to an independent person or to change care plans or update risk assessments. This means that young people are still not sufficiently well safeguarded in this area.

Young people are still not routinely involved in the development of the plans made for them. For example, sections for them to sign and agree records, and risk assessments are not routinely completed. Consequently, there is little evidence to show they have a say in the way their care is planned and provided. Young people also do not have sufficient access to educational resources in the home. This means that a culture of learning is not sufficiently well promoted and young people are less well encouraged to study than they should be.

The manager has developed a written development plan for the home but this is not specific or detailed enough to fully identify any planned changes in the operation or resources of the service, or to confirm the continuation of the home's current operation. For example, it provides little consideration for any maintenance requirements relating to the home's building or car, staff training plans, the home's occupancy or financial arrangements. As such, it does not set out the home's plans for its continued viability well enough.

Staff supervision arrangements have been improved noticeably in the home since the last inspection. However, arrangements for the professional supervision of the Registered Manager are poor and consequently this person only receives very infrequent supervision. This means that the manager is not sufficiently well supported to lead and direct practice in the home.

This inspection has identified two additional matters where further improvement is necessary. The home's responsible individual regularly works as a member of care staff in the home. However, this person has not received professional supervision for a considerable length of time. Consequently, there is insufficient guidance and support for this person's work or monitoring of the quality and appropriateness of his practice. The home has a risk assessment in place regarding situations in which staff

members may work alone with some of the young people. However, this is not sufficiently detailed. It is not specific to the young people resident at the home, does not describe their behaviour and any resulting risks or their likelihood well enough. This means that the safety and wellbeing of young people and the staff working with them is not planned for as well as it should be.

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
27 (2001)	ensure that all persons employed to work at the home receive appropriate training, supervision and appraisal; specifically, that the responsible individual who works in the home is provided with regular supervision and appraisal. (Reg 27(4)(a))	09/11/2012

Recommendations

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

- ensure children have access to a range of educational resources to support their learning (NMS 8.2)
- ensure that where only one member of staff is on duty at any time, a risk assessment has been carried out and recorded in writing, identifying any likely risks to children, staff and members of the public; specifically, ensure the current document is sufficiently detailed and specific (NMS 17.9)
- ensure the care and support provided to children minimises the risk that they will go missing and reduces the risk of harm should the child go missing; specifically ensure that statutory guidance on children who run away and go missing from home or care is implemented and evidenced as implemented (NMS 5.1)
- ensure that children understand, within their level of understanding, the purpose and content of their plan and the reasoning behind any decisions about their care (NMS 25.1)
- ensure there is a written development plan, reviewed annually, for the future of the home, either identifying any planned changes in the operation or resources of the service, or confirming the continuation of the home's current operation and resource (NMS 15.2)
- ensure that suitable arrangements exist for the professional supervision of the

registered person of the agency; specifically that the Registered Manager receives supervision at appropriate intervals. (19.3)

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)*.