

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC000802
Inspection date	27/08/2013
Inspector	Nicholas Murphy
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	30/04/2013
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Service information

Brief description of the service

The home accommodates up to four young people who may have emotional and/or behavioural difficulties. It is operated by a private company.

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 **inadequate progress**.

At the last full inspection on 30 April 2013, the home's overall effectiveness was judged to be adequate. Young people continue to do reasonably well. They are in moderately good health, and are able to access the services they need to keep themselves well. Young people have good relationships with staff and feel able to confide in them. Young people get on well with each other and in general behave responsibly. The use of sanctions and restraints is minimal, and young people say they generally feel safe in the home.

At the previous inspection, three statutory requirements and two recommendations to improve practice were made. Only one statutory requirement and one recommendation have been addressed in full. Staff now record measures of control and discipline within the required timescale. Young people who have gone missing are now seen by an independent person when they return to the home. Both of these improvements promote the safety of young people.

However, issues which have not been addressed concern staff training, omitting to send monitoring reports to Ofsted, and the environment within the home. This failure

to meet the majority of statutory requirements and recommendations means that the home's capacity to improve is not readily evident. The Registered Manager was required to provide training for staff in some specific areas. Although some training has taken place, training on self-harm, although planned, has not happened. Consequently, staff do not have sufficient awareness of what might make young people harm themselves and how to minimise this behaviour. This means that young people may not obtain the support they need to keep themselves safe. The registered provider has failed to send monthly monitoring reports of the conduct of the home to Ofsted. As a result, Ofsted is unable to provide appropriate scrutiny of the home's operation, including how well it safeguards young people. These two statutory requirements have therefore been repeated.

Of most concern is the physical condition of the home. Although the kitchen is clean, it is obvious that other areas of the home have not been subject to a regular cleaning routine. Cobwebs hang from ceilings and light fittings. Some carpets are soiled and stained. An armchair on the landing is dirty and ripped. Young people's rooms in particular look neglected. In one bedroom, graffiti put on walls by a previous occupant has not been removed; window sills are sticky and dusty; carpets are worn and grubby; and in general the décor is tired and unappealing. There is a plan in place to redecorate bedrooms; however, the priority which has been given to this is inadequate. In addition to creating risks to young people's health, the poor quality of the environment conveys to young people that they are not valued. Additionally, a handrail on the staircase is loose at one end, endangering the health and safety of young people and staff.

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 within the home receive appropriate training, supervision and appraisal; specifically that training in self-harm is provided (Regulation 27(4)(a)) *	13/09/2013
33 (2001)	supply a copy of the report required to be made under paragraph 4(c) to HMCI (Regulation 33(5)(a))	13/09/2013
31 (2001)	ensure that all parts of the children's home used by children are kept clean and reasonably decorated and maintained (Regulation 31(2)(e)) *	13/09/2013
23 (2001)	ensure that all parts of the home to which children have access are so far as reasonably practical free from avoidable risks; specifically that the handrail on the lower staircase is securely fixed. (Regulation 23(a)) *	13/09/2013

*These requirements are subject to a compliance notice

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*.