

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	20/02/2014
Inspector	Bill Drumm
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	05/11/2013
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Service information

Brief description of the service

The home accommodates up to five 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 **good progress**.

At the last inspection in November 2013, the overall effectiveness rating of the home was good. The home has made good progress since the last inspection. Young people remain well-cared for and safe. Several young people seen at the time of the inspection appeared very happy. They were relaxed and confident talking with both staff and visitors. Young people spoken to said they were happy living at the home and wished to stay there for the foreseeable future.

One requirement and four recommendations were made at the last inspection and all have been fully met. The requirement was to ensure that the home's admissions and discharge register recorded the full address from where a young person has been admitted, the details of their placing authority and the legal basis under which they are being looked after. The home's manager has reviewed the register and made the necessary amendments to ensure it fully complies with regulations. This means that an accurate record of a young person's placement at the home is retained.

One recommendation was made to ensure that each young person has an accurate and up to date risk assessment in place. The home's manager has, through individual supervision and staff meetings, reiterated to staff the importance of regularly

reviewing risk assessments, amending them where necessary and in keeping them up to date. This helps to ensure that the safety of young people is not compromised and they are kept safe.

Three other recommendations were also made in relation to young people moving into the home from other homes within the same organisation. These relate to, young people having a review of their needs prior to moving into the home, the frequency at which young people are visited by their social worker and the review of the young person's needs once a change of placement has taken place. The home's manager has reviewed the process of young people moving into the home. In all instances a review of young people's needs takes place before a move into the home is agreed and before the placement has taken place. Additionally, the home's manager ensures each young person receives visits from their social worker at regular intervals. This helps to ensure that the wishes and feelings of young people about their move into the home and their placement there are heard. This helps them to feel listened to and to have confidence that any concerns they may have will be dealt with appropriately.

One new recommendation has been made as result of this inspection. The new recommendation is to ensure that the manager and staff at the home contribute toward the development of pathway plans for all young people who are old enough and eligible for them. This will help to ensure young people know what help and services they can expect to receive once they leave the home and move into adulthood.

Additionally, the home has made further progress in a number of areas. The home's manager has reviewed staff training, particularly around the role and function of the home and what outcomes they hope to achieve for young people. Staff fully understand the home's recovery and intervention processes which help young people to move forward from past life experiences and to achieve their full potential. Staff are also looking at ways in which young people can experience new and stimulating activities. The home has enabled several young people to attend the army cadets. This will help to improve their self-confidence and self-esteem. Visits to Northern France, where young people can visit landing zones from the second world war are also being considered. This will help young people to understand some of the countries more recent history.

Areas for improvement

Recommendations

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

- contribute toward the development of each child's care plan, including pathway plan for "eligible" care leavers and works collaboratively with the young person's social worker or personal adviser in implementing the plan. (NMS 12.2)

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*.