

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC004085
Inspection date	04/02/2014
Inspector	Maureen Hamer
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	31/05/2013
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Service information

Brief description of the service

The home is a short break residential home for children and young people with severe physical and/or learning disabilities. It is run by an independent not-for-profit organisation working to meet the needs of children with physical and learning disabilities. It is registered to provide care for up to seven children or young people at any one time. Day care is also provided.

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 inspection in May 2013, the overall quality rating for the service was judged as good; and one requirement and three recommendations for improvement were made. One requirement and one recommendation have been met. The fire officer has visited the home and stated that fire safety measures are satisfactory. Staff have had training on infection control to keep young people safe.

However the manager was unable to demonstrate the progress that staff had made on attaining and completing NVQ training. Not all relevant information regarding serious incidents are being recorded by the independent visitor so these recommendations will continue. In addition staff are not always following young people's care plans and this has impacted on the provision of quality of care; as a result inadequate progress has been made.

Staff treat young people as individuals and are supportive and caring. They report

the positive progress that young people are making, including successfully promoting young people's independence and enjoyment in life.

Young people have the necessary placement plans in place with appropriate targets to promote young people's progress. However as a consequence of staff not following a young person's care the positioning of a young person was incorrect and led to some marking on the young person. In addition not all the necessary aspects of care that were included in the care plan were put in place. The monitoring of care is not always recorded by night staff. Consequently monitoring of the care plan to ensure that health needs are assessed is hindered. Action is now being taken to ensure the necessary monitoring is implemented by staff.

Following a recent serious incident the manager carried out a robust investigation. Appropriate action was taken to ensure that appropriate partners were engaged to ensure appropriate scrutiny is in place. Monthly quality assurance monitoring is in place but the serious incident is not identified as a shortfall in the report. In addition the engagement of children, parents and placing authorities is not demonstrated in quality assurance reports. This reduces opportunities to gain independent input about the quality of care provided to young people.

The home has good methods in place to show how young people with non-verbal communication are engaged in their care and are encouraged to make choices. As a result how and what a young person is able to communicate is available to all staff. This reduces the frustration felt by young people and improves the quality of care provide to young people.

The new manager has submitted an application to Ofsted for registration.

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
20 (2001)	promote and protect the of the children accommodated in the home physical, emotional and mental health (Regulation 20)	28/02/2014
33 (2001)	interview, with their consent and in private, such of the children accommodated there parents, relatives and persons working at the home as appears necessary in order to form an opinion of the standard of care provided in the home (Regulation 33(4)(a))	28/03/2014
34 (2001)	establish and maintain a system for monitoring the matters set out in schedule 6 at appropriate levels in particular that there is compliance with placing authorities plan for the care of the	28/02/2014

	child (Regulation 34(1)(a) Schedule (6)(1))	
34 (2001)	supply to the HMCI a report in respect of any review conducted in particular of findings from the monitoring of schedule 6 matters (Regulation (34) (2))	28/02/2014
34 (2001)	ensure the system to monitor matters in schedule 6 shall provide for the consultation with children accommodated in the home, their parents and placing authorities. (Regulation 34 (3))	28/03/2014

Recommendations

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

- ensure staff working with young people attain a minimum level 3 qualification within 6 months of confirmation of employment (NMS 18.5)
- include in the quality assurance monitoring, particularly Regulation 33 any serious incidents, allegations, complaints about the provision and the quality of the provision. Children in the home are regularly involved in contributing to monitoring the operation of the home, and their views and concerns are taken into account. (NMS 21.1)

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*.