

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC005042
Inspection date	18/12/2013
Inspector	Pete Hylton
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Residential special school (>295 days/year)

Date of last inspection	10/10/2013
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Service information

Brief description of the service

The privately owned service is both a children's home and a school that provides care and education for up to 12 young people who have significant social, emotional and behavioural difficulties. Ten young people can be accommodated at the children's home with a further two young people accommodated in the satellite home.

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**.

The home was last inspected in October 2013 and was judged to be good. Two recommendations were made. These related to staff restraint training and recording the views of young people where sanctions are given.

The Registered Manager has ensured that the views of young people are recorded where sanctions are given. Since the last inspection, all sanctions are appropriately documented and the views of young people recorded. As a result, the Registered Manager is now able to fully review the use of these measures in the home. All sanctions are fair, reasonable and proportionate. Restraint is only used as a last resort and for the purposes of keeping young people safe.

The use of rewards recognises where young people display appropriate behaviour. Complaints from young people are rare and where they do occur, they are appropriately handled and recorded. The staff team continue to ensure that where

tensions arise between young people, they are encouraged to resolve their differences amicably. This results in a tolerant and accepting atmosphere where young people feel listened to and respected. A young person commented that 'I know I can go to any member of staff if I want.'

Since the last inspection, there have been no occasions of young people going missing from the home. Where young people are late returning to the home, the staff ensure that appropriate actions are taken. For example, staff actively look for young people and discuss these incidents in regular key working sessions. As a result, young people are encouraged to reflect on their behaviours and emotional needs. A young person commented that 'my behaviour has got loads better.' Furthermore, young people continue to make progress in other areas of their lives. Clear expectations about behaviour mean that young people develop positive routines. A young person commented that 'I never used to be able to sleep properly until I came here.'

Young people continue to access a wide range of activities both in and outside of the home. They are supported in developing and maintaining active and healthy lifestyles. A young person commented 'just because we are here, it doesn't mean that we can't have a normal childhood. I have tried loads of activities. I get freedom to make my own choices.'

Where serious events occur in the home, the Registered Manager ensures that prompt notification is made to the relevant services. Furthermore, the Registered Manager ensures that young people are supported with their emotional needs. Access to the organisation's therapist is swiftly arranged and where necessary uses external support services. However, risk management following these events is not sufficiently robust. The Registered Manager does not ensure that any risks or vulnerabilities are appropriately reflected in the young person's risk assessments or placement plans. As a result, the potential exists for young people to be cared for in a manner that does not fully promote their welfare. This means that the provision for the care and supervision of young people is negatively affected. A requirement has been made to address this shortfall.

Fire safety continues to be appropriately promoted in the home. Drills take place regularly with all young people involved. Since the last inspection, an evening drill has taken place. As a result, young people are practiced in evacuating the home in the hours of darkness. All areas of the home are safely maintained and regularly checked. Where defects are noted, they are swiftly repaired. All required checks on the environment continue to be in place. This further promotes the safety of young people.

There has been additional staff training since the last inspection in fire safety and equality and diversity. As a result, the staff team have developed their knowledge and awareness of current practice in these areas. The Registered Manager has also ensured that all staff are completing restraint training within the organisation's prescribed time periods. Therefore, the recommendation made at the last inspection has been fully addressed.

The home has been redecorated since the last inspection. All young people's rooms have been repainted and are now bright, homely and reflective of individual tastes and preferences. Although extensive redecoration continues in some areas of the home, all appropriate actions are being taken to minimise disruption to the young people. The satellite home has not been occupied since the last inspection and remains fit for purpose, well maintained and attractively presented.

As a result of this inspection, one requirement has been made. This identified shortfall has a negative impact on the outcomes for young people. Therefore, the home is judged to be making inadequate progress.

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
11 (2001)	ensure that the children's home is conducted so as to promote and make proper provision for the welfare of children accommodated there and make proper provision for the care, education, supervision and, where appropriate, treatment, of children accommodated there. (Regulation 11 (1) (a-b))	17/01/2014

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*.