

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC005067
Inspection date	04/02/2013
Inspector	Elizabeth Tanner
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	14/11/2012
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Service information

Brief description of the service

The home is part of a small private organisation providing up to six placements for young people who have emotional and 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**.

This home was judged satisfactory overall at the previous full inspection in November 2012. This interim inspection judges that the home has since made satisfactory progress and has taken action to address the six requirements and two recommendations from the last inspection. Two requirements and one recommendation have been made at this inspection.

The manager and staff are now aware of each young person's educational needs. A newly appointed teacher is in the process of securing school placements for all young people who are placed in the home. There is regular contact with schools and other education support agencies to support young people's engagement with their education. The routine and boundaries in the home now actively support the engagement of young people in educational activities.

Repairs and redecoration have taken place since the last inspection and areas in need of attention have been suitably addressed or arrangements are in place to facilitate the work. Young people now live in a better-maintained and safer environment. Fire doors are no longer kept open. This is because positive steps have

been taken to address maintenance issues. New bedroom furniture has been purchased and young people's bedrooms clearly reflect their personal style and interests. However, the home is not as clean as it could be with a high number of cobwebs and a build-up of general dirt visible in some areas.

The previous recommendation relating to ensuring that sanctions are clear has been fully met. A consistent approach to the use of sanctions by the staff team now means that young people are clear about the expectations in respect of their behaviour. Because of this, there is an improvement in behaviour from the young people.

Effective recruitment has ensured that positive progress is being made to ensure the staff team includes staff of both genders. Young people now have greater choice in respect of the gender of staff they may wish to talk to. Recording relating to allegations made against staff, including details of how the allegation was followed up and resolved, a record of any action taken and the decisions reached, is now kept on the person's confidential file.

Registered provider visits are much improved and it is clear that during them young people are consulted about the quality of care. However, recently reports of these visits have not been sent to the regulator within the expected timescales. This means that Ofsted cannot effectively monitor the quality of care that is offered. The manager monitors the matters they are required to and has a good knowledge of the operational running of the home. Their monitoring reports are now sent to Ofsted. Significant events relating to the young people in the home are notified to the appropriate placing authorities. Some of these notifications have not been sent to Ofsted as required. However, the impact of this shortfall is minimal in respect of the care of young people because of the good communication with other agencies.

The home has been without a Registered Manager for 18 weeks. However, the current manager is presently applying for registration with Ofsted.

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
30 (2001)	ensure if any of the events listed in column 1 of the table in Schedule 5 takes place, the registered person shall without delay notify the persons indicated in respect of the event in column 2 of the table (Regulation 30(1))	26/02/2013
33 (2001)	ensure that copies of reports of registered provider visits are supplied to Ofsted within their expected timeframe. (Regulation	01/03/2013

	33 (5)(a))	
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Recommendations

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

- ensure the home provides a comfortable and homely environment and is well maintained. This is with particular regard to general cleanliness.(NMS 10.3)

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*.