

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	13/03/2013
Inspector	Sonya Robinson
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	31/07/2012
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Service information

Brief description of the service

This private children's home provides residential care and accommodation for young people who may have emotional and behavioural difficulties. This home is registered for one young person.

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 full inspection in July 2012 the home was judged as adequate overall. On that inspection Ofsted asked the provider to make improvements to ensure that the Statement of Purpose and children's guide were updated; that young people should be encouraged to communicate their views and that the home should contribute to any plans to promote young people's independence such as a pathway plan. Finally, the provider was asked to ensure that all care staff should hold a relevant qualification in childcare.

Since that last inspection the Statement of Purpose and young people's guide have both been reviewed and updated and now contain Ofsted's up-to-date details and information for young people about how to access their social worker and independent reviewing officer. This provides young people with the means of contacting their placing authority without having to ask for this information. Young people have regular one-to-one sessions with key worker's which are used to reflect and discuss behaviour and develop independence skills. Young people are involved in discussions about house rules and the day-to-day arrangements in the house such as being encouraged to undertake personal laundry and meal preparation.

Pathway plans for the young people raised at the last inspection relate to young people who have now moved on. However, this is raised again through this inspection as it is applicable for the current young people placed. It is important that these are undertaken in conjunction with the placing authority, the home and the young people in order to clearly identify young people's individual goals for the future.

The home now has a maintenance plan in place. However, the carpet on the hall, stairs and landing is now particularly worn and stained in parts and young people's bedrooms now show signs of young people's frustration and expression of behaviour such as, heavily marked walls and carpet. The Registered Manager states that this is being actively managed in consultation with others.

The behaviour management records show how effective each measure has been, in promoting positive behaviour. Staff use this information to evaluate the impact the measures have on young people and to devise more effective strategies where necessary. Staff keep detailed accounts of their direct work with young people. The records provide a clear picture of young people's views and feelings about their lives, the progress they make and areas for further work. All staff have accredited training in behaviour management with regular refresher training. Since the last inspection additional staff have completed their level three Children and Young People's Workforce Diploma and there are plans in place for additional staff to commence this training after their induction period has been completed.

There are currently sufficient staff to meet the needs of the young people and since the last inspection the home has a new, suitably experienced and competent deputy manager within their team. Staff are caring, and have a good understanding of individual young people. They have positive relationships with young people and are interested in their lives. Young people are therefore being looked after by familiar people who provide consistency for them.

Monitoring by the independent visitor has lapsed on occasion since the last inspection, although the Registered Manager consistently monitors the running of the home and identifies areas for improvement. She takes action to ensure the home meets the young people's needs, promotes their welfare and improves the outcomes of young people in their care. Therefore the home has made good progress since the last inspection.

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
33 (2001)	ensure that the registered provider visits the home at least once a month and interviews in private with their consent, and children accommodated there, their parent, relatives and person's working at the home, in order to form an opinion of the standard of care provided in the home, they shall also review the appropriate records and prepare a report on the conduct of the home. (Reg 33 (3) (4))	30/04/2013

Recommendations

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

- ensure that the home contributes to the development of and implementation of young people's pathway plans (NMS 12.2)
- ensure the home provides a comfortable and homely environment and is well maintained and decorated. (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*.