

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	17/03/2014
Inspector	Anthony Kyem
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	26/04/2013
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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**.

The home's overall effectiveness was judged to be adequate, at the last inspection. Since then the home has made good progress, addressing the previous requirements and all but one of the recommendations made, at that time. Independent monitoring visits used to report on the home's conduct now take account of the views of young people and those significant to them. This allows the independent person to consult with others, to form an opinion about the quality of young people's care. Young people's educational achievement is actively promoted and young people make positive progress with their education and learning.

Young people have access to the services they need to promote their good health and well-being. Young people attend their routine health appointments with encouragement and support from staff. Young people are taught about key health issues so they know how to lead and maintain a healthy lifestyle. Risk taking behaviours, such as drug misuse, have been an issue for young people. Staff have provided appropriate support and access to specialist services to help young people, where necessary. Pro-active steps are taken to detect, prevent and deter young people's risk taking behaviours to keep them safe and achieve the desired results.

Young people enjoy constructive relationships with staff and they sustain their positive attachments. Young people's positive behaviour is promoted and the use of sanctions and restraint are kept to an absolute minimum. The use of sanctions, if used at all, are used fairly and proportionately. There have been no restraints since the previous inspection. Young people know how to make a complaint and their rights are promoted effectively.

Young people who go missing from care are protected. There are effective procedures that staff implement and follow to promote their safe return. Staff maintain effective partnerships with the police and other professional agencies to promote young people's safety.

Young people report, 'I'm good thanks. It's like a normal house. It's different to where I'm from. I'm moving back home in July...It's helped me to stop behaving badly. You know, like stealing. I've made friends here, but I still want to go home. I'm doing bricklaying and I enjoy it...I go to the gym sometimes.'

Young people are supported to develop their practical living skills to help them become more resilient and independent. Eligible care leavers are involved in education to promote their economic well-being. However, young people do not have pathway plans currently, to promote their smooth transition towards adulthood. The home has advocated on behalf of young people and requested these from the placing authority.

Young people benefit from regular contact with their friends and family. Young people are allowed to take reasonable risks as part of their growth and natural development. Young people enjoy free time but are reluctant to engage in positive activities. Consequently, they have limited interests and hobbies to develop their social skills. Young people's free time is not always managed constructively. Young people do however attend the gymnasium which is positive and enjoyable for them.

The home provides young people with a warm, comfortable and homely environment. The home is tastefully furnished, decorated and maintained. It provides young people with good quality living accommodation that meets their needs and benefits them. A recent health and safety inspection identified that due to the age of the property there was a possibility that asbestos could have been used in the home's construction or refurbishment. As a result, appropriate action is needed to ensure the premises are suitable and safe for young people to live in. Consequently, a requirement is made in respect of this issue.

As a result of this inspection there is one requirement and two recommendations made. These relate to health and safety, young people's activities and pathway plans to support eligible care leavers.

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
23 (2001)	The registered person shall ensure that all parts of the home to which young people have access are so far as reasonably practicable free from hazards to their safety. Regulation 23 (a)	01/05/2014

Recommendations

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

- ensure that young people are actively encouraged to develop their individual interests and hobbies. This includes taking part in planned leisure activities and trips (NMS 7.2)
- ensure that the home contributes to the development of and implementation of young people's pathway plans (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*.