

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC006017
Inspection date	07/01/2014
Inspector	Anthony Kyem
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	22/03/2013
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Service information

Brief description of the service

This children's home is owned and operated by a private company. The home is registered to care for one young person who may have emotional or behavioural difficulties or a learning disability.

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**.

The home has not provided care or accommodation to young people since the 14 November 2013. This inspection focuses on whether the home meets its statutory requirements in order to maintain its registration and is ready to accept admissions in the future. The home's previous inspection judgement for overall effectiveness was adequate.

There were two requirements and five recommendations made at the previous inspection. The home has addressed both requirements. However, recommendations made at the last inspection could not be re-assessed because there are no young people in placement. Consequently, there is insufficient information available to monitor compliance. As a result, the same recommendations are repeated for consideration at the next inspection.

The Statement of Purpose has been reviewed and updated to include details of staff working at the home. The statement requires further improvement as it does not include accurate details of staff's individual qualifications and relevant experience.

The home has a child protection policy that sets out the procedures to be followed for handling allegations and reporting suspected abuse. However, the home does not have a copy of the local safeguarding children's board's multi-agency safeguarding procedures, to ensure its own procedures are consistent with those used and prepared by the local authority.

Health and safety matters within the home are generally managed effectively. There are contractual safety inspections to the home's fire, gas and portable electrical appliances. However, a gas safety inspection has not taken place within the recommended timescales. The home is in need of re-decoration and repair following a recent break in where a large amount of damage and vandalism was caused. Some restoration work has already taken place. However, there is still further work to be completed to ensure the home provides young people with a suitable, comfortable and homely environment.

As a result of this inspection, there are four new recommendations made for the home to address. These relate to providing a suitable physical environment for young people, promoting environmental safety, updating the Statement of Purpose and obtaining a copy of the local safeguarding children's board's policies and procedures. As previously stated recommendations made at the last inspection have also been repeated.

Areas for improvement

Recommendations

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

- ensure the home's written policy on managing behaviour is understood by all staff and consistently applied at all times (NMS 3.3)
- ensure all staff understand, share and implement the home's ethos, philosophy and approach to caring for children (NMS 3.4)
- ensure that young people maintain a healthy lifestyle; with particular regards to smoking (NMS 6.2)
- ensure children are helped by staff to achieve their educational goals. This includes providing support, facilities and opportunities as needed. Staff work with a child's education provider to maximise each child's achievement and to minimise any underachievement (NMS 8.4)
- ensure the provides a comfortable and homely environment and is well maintained and decorated (NMS 10.3)
- ensure gas safety tests are undertaken annually (NMS 10.8)
- ensure the Statement of Purpose is reviewed to include staff's qualifications and relevant experience (NMS 13.3)

- ensure the registered manager exercises effective leadership of the home's staff and operation, such that the home is organised, managed and staffed in a manner that delivers sound, good quality care that meets the individual needs of each child at the home. (NMS 14.5)
- ensure the home's child protection procedures are consistent with the local authorities policies and procedures agreed by the LSCB. (NMS 20.4)

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*.