

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC006017
Inspection date	23/07/2012
Inspector	Sonya Robinson
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	17/02/2012
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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 **inadequate** progress.

At the last full inspection in December 2011, the home was rated as good. An interim inspection was conducted in February 2012 at which time the home was judged to have made good progress. No requirements or recommendations were made.

At the time of this unannounced inspection no children were in placement. Therefore a further interim inspection was undertaken to look overall at the progress of young people's previous placements and the progress of the home during that period.

The home has a Statement of Purpose and a young person's guide; these set out the aims of the home and how it will operate. However, the Statement of Purpose has some out of date information, for example Ofsted's contact details are incorrect and there is no mention of the missing from care protocol despite this being established within the home and agreed with the local police. Feedback from professionals who have had some involvement at the home such as local authorities and the police comment that the home is 'ok'. Overall the view was that the home had worked

'quite well' to meet very challenging behaviours that young people exhibited while in placement. However, young people placed were moved at their own request because they did not feel safe within the local community.

The home has satisfactory systems in place to deal with young people who go missing from care, which are underpinned by policy, procedure and staff guidance. The home has also developed appropriate links and protocols with the local police. However, there have been incidents of anti-social behaviour involving young people from the home within the local community which has caused anxiety and frustration with some local neighbours. Ofsted have been notified of these incidents however, notifications have contained insufficient detail that would fully reflect the significance of the events. Additionally, internal monitoring systems have failed to identify patterns or trends regarding repeated complaints about anti-social behaviour and failed to address some incidents in a timely manner.

The Registered Manager has relevant qualifications and experience in childcare. They are also the Registered Manager for another of the organisation's registered children's home. The outcome of this interim inspection raises some concerns over the effectiveness of the management oversight of this home and has resulted in a number of requirements.

The staff group have an appropriate qualification in childcare and they have completed training courses such as safeguarding, child protection, behaviour management and child sexual exploitation and there is a rolling programme of training in place. However, as staff are not currently based within the home and have been dispersed to other services, it was not possible to ascertain whether the training has assisted the staff in their role so they can feel confident in responding to and managing very challenging behaviours presented by young people.

The home itself is also showing signs of wear as a result of some behaviour, for example, there are a number of damaged doors throughout the home. External and internal doors also all have locks on; these are of immediate concern as it may impinge on escape routes in the event of a fire. This was taken on board by a senior manager of the organisation and was being addressed on the day of inspection. Additional required maintenance and household repairs have also been identified through this inspection within the kitchen, communal and bedroom areas; including heavily worn flooring and décor throughout. Overall this does not present as a comfortable homely environment.

The Registered Manager has not undertaken a review of the previous six months progress or performance of the service in order to identify the strengths and weaknesses within the home to enable reflection of the service and to identify areas for improvement.

Therefore, the home has made inadequate 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
32 (2001)	ensure that there is adequate precautions against the risk of fire and that there are adequate means of escape; specifically, inappropriate door locks are to be removed (Regulation 32 (a) (b))	23/07/2012
31 (2001)	ensure that the home is kept in good structural repair externally and internally and is reasonably decorated and maintained (Regulation 31 (2))	31/08/2012
30 (2001)	ensure a system is in place to notify without delay all authorities listed in schedule 5 of significant events (Regulation 30 (1))	31/08/2012
5 (2001)	update and revise the Statement of Purpose (Regulation 5)	31/08/2012
34 (2001)	maintain a system for the monitoring of matters in Schedule 6 at appropriate intervals and supply to the HMCI a report in respect of any review conducted by him for that purpose, such as a six monthly review. (Regulation 34)	31/08/2012

Recommendations

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

- ensure that the manager regularly monitors records to identify any concerns about specific incidents and to identify patterns and trends and that immediate action is taken to address any issues raised by this monitoring. (NMS 21.2)

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 (March 2011)*.