

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	19/03/2014
Inspector	Ann-Marie Born
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	24/07/2013
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Service information

Brief description of the service

The home is run by a private company and is registered to provide care for up to four young people of either gender. The Statement of Purpose for the home identifies the primary reason for a young person's placement is to support their emotional or 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 as outstanding at the previous full inspection in July 2013. There were no requirements or recommendations made. The home is maintaining exceptional quality of care and continues to provide consistent and stable care for young people. This judgement of satisfactory progress reflects the fact that the home did not previously have any identified areas for improvement. This inspection identifies one recommendation - to improve the capturing of young people's wishes and feelings.

Young people fully benefit from the excellent partnership working between the home and all professionals involved in their care. Proactive staff promote effective communication with partner agencies. As a result, young people receive consistent messages regarding their care and transition plans enabling trust to be established and the slightest of achievements to be recognised. A teacher stated, 'They fully support young people in their education and help them with all aspects. I am impressed with the care provided,' and a youth offending worker said, 'They are

doing tremendously well and always update me'.

Excellent care and behaviour management plans fully incorporate all of a young person's holistic and developmental needs. They are reviewed regularly thereby consistently providing young people with the opportunity to achieve and make progress in line with their abilities. Young people's focused key work sessions are of good quality and are comprehensive. However, as young people are not seeing or signing their reports it is not evident that they agree with them.

Young people in this home have been described as 'very damaged and complex '. The caring and committed staff team take proactive steps to safeguard young people and prevent self-harm and absences from the home. All room searches and missing episodes are recorded to safeguard young people. However as young people are not commenting on these interventions, opportunities for them to learn from their behaviours are being missed. Nevertheless a youth offending worker stated, 'He is safe there'.

This is a well-managed home where diligent attention is paid to exceeding standards. For example, the experienced manager has commenced the process of ensuring monthly audits comply with new legislation. Staff are trained in all core areas and a strong training plan covers identified needs and refresher courses. A staff member said, 'Training has been excellent for me, it really has'. Consequently young people are cared for by staff who are well supported and equipped to meet their needs. A social worker said, 'The staff there have spent an enormous amount of time and patience with him. The staff have done a really good job'.

Areas for improvement

Recommendations

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

- ensure that all children communicate their views on all aspects of their care and support. (NMS 1.3)

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*.