

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC006294
Inspection date	26/10/2012
Inspector	Malcolm Stannard
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	26/06/2012
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Service information

Brief description of the service

The home is run by a 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 **good progress**.

At the last inspection in June 2012, the overall effectiveness of the home was judged to be good. There were two recommendations for improvement made at that inspection and one of these has been met. Young people are making good progress and there has been continued improvement in outcomes.

At the last inspection the manager was asked to ensure that all staff completed an appropriate qualification or was working towards one. Two staff members are completing their probationary period and are shortly to commence the Children and Young People's Workforce diploma qualification at level 3. Three staff members have completed the level 3 course, five are currently working towards a qualification and the assistant manager is undertaking a level 5 qualification. All staff are therefore developing their practice by obtaining a formal qualification. This helps to ensure that they are able to carry out their work with young people consistently and to a high standard.

A recommendation was also made to ensuring the stair and upper landing carpet is

replaced as it had become stained and worn. The carpet has not yet been renewed; however, quotes for the work to be undertaken are presently being sought. In the interim period, the carpet has been cleaned professionally to ensure it is presentable. The recommendation is not fully met and is repeated at this inspection.

The home continues to provide a stable environment for the young people living there. One young person who was refurbishing the games/education room at the time of the full inspection has completed the task to a high standard.

Young people benefit from staff continuously updating their care plans to meet their changing needs. This ensures that all staff know what work they need to undertake. Relationships with external agencies in the local community continue to be strong. For example, there is excellent interaction with the local police who visit to speak to young people about socially acceptable behaviour and keeping themselves safe.

All young people continue to attend education fulltime and are able to demonstrate achievement. For example, by moving into post-16 education, planning to commence work experience or studying for GCSE qualifications. Staff at the home continue to have daily contact with the educational staff, meaning they are able to be fully aware of any issues which may have arisen during the school day.

Positive changes in the behaviour and conduct of young people have been achieved. Staff have worked with young people to address the issues which have previously caused them to lose their temper and become unsettled, often causing damage to the home. There has been great success in this area and no restraints, damage or the need to involve police has occurred since the last inspection.

Some young people have commenced a detailed independence package, which has given them the opportunity to shop and cook for themselves. They have also been assisted to consider the documents they may need in the future such as a passport and how to apply for one.

Young people in the home continue to be supported to maintain appropriate contact with friends and their family. Additional support has been introduced to enable young people to further consider their backgrounds and situations regarding family members who they do not see.

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 provides a comfortable and homely environment and is well maintained and decorated. Specifically, replace the worn stair and upper landing carpet. (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 (March 2011)*.