

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	10/03/2014
Inspector	Rachel Ruth Britten
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	05/11/2013
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Service information

Brief description of the service

The home provides care for up to two young people with emotional and behavioural difficulties. A private company owns and operates the setting.

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 children's home has maintained the outstanding quality of care that it provided at the last inspection in November 2013. The outcomes for young people continue to be good overall, particularly in respect to education and emotional health. Young people enjoy a continuing wealth of appropriate new experiences and activities to broaden their horizons. They feel safe and well cared for by staff in the home. They enjoy consistent care and have fun doing everyday activities in the home and locality. Young people also have good opportunities to socialise and have contact with family and friends.

The home has addressed the requirement that was made at the last inspection in regard to recording all visitors to the home and the reasons for their visits. All staff are ensuring that this happens on every occasion and the manager is monitoring this as part of her monthly checks. This improvement contributes to the protection of both young people and staff.

The home has partially addressed the recommendation about manager monitoring that was raised at the last inspection. The manager and staff have improved the

monitoring of risk assessments and of missing from home's records. They have also identified some patterns and trends in young people's recent risk taking behaviour. They have improved the procedures they use and are closely monitoring the care plan as a result. For example, they now use a member of staff from the organisation, who is not on the staff group, to talk to young people about the reasons they went missing and what happened to them while missing. Staff have also devised a friendly questionnaire format to help young people disclose more detail about what happened. The information available and the analysis of it has enabled the home to tailor risk assessments more effectively and take actions to minimise the likelihood of further incidents. However, the effectiveness of manager monitoring is still held back by ineffective use of the organisation's 'tracker' systems. This is because information about the home's actual activity in the month is not entered into the tracker. The same procedural comments are inserted every month instead of evidence examples. Shortfalls in the activity actually undertaken cannot therefore be identified and the quality of care is not apparent to the manager. The impact of this shortfall on young people is minimal because managers do identify patterns and trends. Nevertheless, managers are duplicating their efforts by filling in tracker forms in such a way that little useful information is yielded from them.

Young people benefit from staff who work together closely with placing authorities, police and relevant professional and voluntary agencies. This ensures that young people are helped to understand how to behave safely and appropriately in the community. They receive good help and support to enjoy daily activities, whilst being supervised to a level which is proportionate to their current risk taking.

Overall, the home's statement of purpose reflects the home's running. However, it does not state that the area manager supervises the home manager, or how the supervision of the organisation's therapists is arranged. In addition, the current staff team are all female. While this is deemed appropriate for young people's needs, the statement of purpose does not explain how young people have appropriate role models of both sexes. Young people have relevant access to male staff within the organisation as part of daily routines and so the shortfall has no adverse impact in practice.

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
4 (2001)	ensure that the home's statement of purpose includes all those matters listed in schedule 1. This pertains to the arrangements for the professional supervision of the manager and therapists and a description of the means whereby the home will promote	11/04/2014

	appropriate role models of both sexes while all the staff are of one sex. (Regulation 4 (1) schedule 1.5, 1.6 and 1.26)	
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Recommendations

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

- improve the effectiveness of monitoring the quality of the provision. This specifically refers to using the home's 'tracker' document effectively to identify actual practice in all areas each month, thereby enabling shortfalls to be identified and the quality and progress of the home to be known and compared month on month. (NMS 21.1)

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*.