

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC008485
Inspection date	06/01/2014
Inspector	Louise Redfern
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	31/05/2013
--------------------------------	------------

© Crown copyright 2014

Website: www.ofsted.gov.uk

This document may be reproduced in whole or in part for non-commercial educational purposes, provided that the information quoted is reproduced without adaptation and the source and date of publication are stated.

Service information

Brief description of the service

This is a private children's home that provides care and accommodation for up to six young people with physical disabilities and emotional and/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 **inadequate progress**.

At the previous full inspection in May 2013, the overall effectiveness of the service was judged as good. Three requirements and five recommendations for improvement were set. This inspection looked at the progress made and at any other concerns raised since the last inspection. Inadequate progress has been made since the last inspection. This solely relates to one requirement and one recommendation not being met. A further requirement has also been made.

Since the last inspection, an experienced manager has been appointed from within the company to manage this home; he has completed the registration process with Ofsted.

Since the last inspection, visits by a designated person in accordance with regulation have taken place monthly. HMCI now receives the reports within the agreed timescales. Monitoring of the home continues to be undertaken on a regular basis. Formal systems have now been implemented to ensure parents and placing authorities' views are obtained as part of Regulation 34 monitoring. This means that any suggestions for improvement to the quality of care are holistically captured. The

amended children's guide now includes the details of individual young people's independent reviewing officers, Ofsted and the Children's Rights Director.

A policy regarding the use of door alarms and electric surveillance equipment used in the home has now been implemented. This ensures that staff and young people have a clear understanding of how and when the equipment is used in the home.

The Registered Manager ensures that all young people practice the emergency escape plan and that the evacuation process is effective. This means that in the event of an emergency young people and staff would know what to do.

There has been an improvement in the process of checking the suitability of prospective staff members. References continue to be verified by telephone. The content of these phone calls is now clearly recorded. This means that the home can demonstrate that verification of references is robust and how this information contributes to the decision making about an applicant's suitability.

Records still do not fully meet the regulations. Despite the Registered Manager making comments on each measure of control imposed, he does not comment the effectiveness and any consequence of the imposed sanctions and restraints. This is a missed opportunity to effectively evaluate the control measures. This requirement has been re-stated.

The Registered Manager continues to chase overdue reviews of young people's emergency placements. Despite this, they are not always completed within the recommended timescale. This means that there is a delay in securing plans for young people. This recommendation has been re-stated.

Young people are thriving in the home and benefit from being looked after by a caring, consistent and nurturing team. This means that young people recognise the high level of care in the home. One young person commented, 'being here has saved my life, I have got a future now. I am doing my GCSE's and I have already got my college place for next year.'

Since the last inspection, staffing levels on shifts have increased; this means young people have the opportunity to spend one to one time with staff on a regular basis. As a result, effective relationships are built between young people.

Young people have good opportunities to explore a variety of community-based activities as individuals, such as, accessing local BMX tracks. This builds their self-esteem, broadens their horizons and provides opportunities to develop peer friendships in the community. However, a shortfall was identified in that risk assessments for individual activities are not applied.

Young people continue to make excellent progress in education; their attendance is routinely 100%. Since the last inspection, for example, one young person has successfully returned to full time mainstream education. They report that they are

enjoying school, making good progress and building friendships. This is a significant achievement given their individual starting points.

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
17B (2001)	ensure that within 24 hours of the use of any measure of control, a written record is made including the effectiveness and any consequences of the use of the measure (Regulation 17B (3)(f))	06/02/2014
23 (2001)	ensure that any activities in which children participate are so far as reasonably practicable free from avoidable risks. (Regulation 23 (b))	06/02/2014

Recommendations

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

- ensure that a review is initiated no more than 72 hours after any emergency admission to consider whether the young person should remain at the home, or it is in the young person's interests to move placement (NMS 11.7)

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*.