

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC008488
Inspection date	13/11/2012
Inspector	Monica Hargreaves
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	25/07/2012
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Service information

Brief description of the service

This is a private children's home registered to provide care and accommodation for up to eight young people who may be experiencing 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 **good progress**.

The overall judgement at the last full inspection in July 2012 was good. Since that inspection, the home has continued to make good progress.

Three requirements and two recommendations were made at the last visit. These are all met, demonstrating the manager's commitment to improving the quality of care in the home for the benefit of young people.

A requirement was made regarding education plans. The home has obtained a copy of each young person's personal education plan. This enables staff to understand the targets young people are working towards and ensure that young people have the support they need to meet them and to achieve in education.

The manager was required to ensure that all records of physical interventions are appropriately recorded. This has been achieved. Information about any incident of physical restraint is kept in a bound and numbered book. Records are up-to-date and contain all the required information. They demonstrate that there are very few incidents of physical intervention. The manager regularly checks records to monitor

the safety and welfare of young people.

The requirement that was made about redecoration in some parts of the home is met. The manager has put in place a programme of redecoration for the home. The bed-sitting room was in the process of being refurbished at the time of this inspection. The young person who is to use this as a bedroom has been fully involved in the preparations, choosing wallpaper and carpeting and helping with some of the cleaning. This has enabled the young person to express her views about the decoration and to develop a sense of ownership of the room.

The recommendation that was made regarding the Statement of Purpose is also met. This document has been reviewed and updated. It contains clear details of how the home works. It is given to relatives and professionals involved with the home so that they have good information about how young people are looked after. A copy of this document has been forwarded to Ofsted as required by the regulations.

A recommendation that was made regarding the recording of complaints is met. The manager was asked to ensure that full information about complaints is kept, including the outcome, so that there is a clear record of the information that has been given to complainants. There have been no complaints since the last inspection. However, the manager has reviewed the recording systems to ensure that the information is properly captured.

Young people continue to make good progress in the home. Generally they experience long term, settled placements. This enables them to develop trusting relationships with staff and supports their general development. Since the last inspection, young people have achieved an excellent level of attendance at school. This has ensured that they have been able to make good progress towards meeting their individual targets in education. Young people have aspirations for their future. One young person said 'I want to be a teacher or work with animals.'

Young people have responded well to the structures and boundaries that are in place in the home and have been supported to establish good routines. As a result of the way they are cared for, their behaviour has improved and the number of restraints has dramatically reduced. The risk of going missing has also greatly diminished for some young people. This has contributed to their overall safety and well-being.

Young people themselves report that they think they are well looked after. They say that they know staff care about them and that they feel safe and settled in their home. They enjoy the activities that they are involved with. One young person said that they particularly like working with the animals at the local rescue centre.

The home has a system for recording and reporting significant incidents that meets the Children's Homes Regulations. However, a recent incident, that was appropriately notified to the placing authority, was not notified to Ofsted and a requirement has been made. This shortfall did not have any impact on the welfare of young people as the incident itself was well managed.

Arrangements for storing medicines within the home are generally robust and there is no evidence that they do not protect young people. However, the arrangements for managing medication when young people are on holiday have not been as robust and a recommendation has been made. The manager has reviewed the procedures for medication to cover situations when young people are on holiday to ensure that they continue to be effective.

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
30 (2001)	ensure that if any of the events listed in column 1 of the table in Schedule 5 takes place, that the persons indicated in respect of the event in column 2 of the table, are notified. (Regulation 30 (1))	30/11/2012

Recommendations

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

- ensure that the procedures for managing medication when young people are on holiday from the home are reviewed. (NMS 6.13)

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)*.