

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	31/10/2013
Inspector	Louise Redfern
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	30/04/2013
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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 **inadequate progress**.

At the previous full inspection in April 2013, the overall effectiveness of the service was judged as good. Two requirements and two 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 not being met and part of a recommendation still being outstanding. One requirement and one recommendation have been fully met since the last inspection.

The service meets the aims and objectives of its Statement of Purpose. All information listed in schedule one is now included in this document. For example, information about the qualifications and experience of the manager or staff; the arrangements for supervision and training; or the arrangements for consultation with young people is now in the document.

A thorough and detailed risk assessment was completed in consultation with external specialists regarding potential physical support required by one young person, with

regards to mobility. This did not result in training for staff as no moving and handling is required to meet the individual needs of the young person.

All young people's bedrooms have been re-decorated as part of the internal improvement plan. Young people have been involved in how their personal space is decorated; this develops their sense of belonging to the home. However, young people's bathrooms remain in a poor state of repair and require improvement to bring them up to the standard of the rest of the house.

Following the last inspection the Registered Manager made the necessary amendments to the template for recording sanctions and restraints. However, these changes have not been maintained in the home. As a result, records still do not fully meet the regulations because the effectiveness of sanctions and restraints are not routinely evaluated and young people's comments are not fully recorded. This requirement has been re-stated.

Young people benefit from being looked after by a caring, consistent and nurturing staff and management team. This means that young people recognise the high level of care in the home. One young person commented, 'this is the best home in the world I would score it 50 out of 10.' Good levels of staffing remain in place. Young people have good opportunity to explore a variety of community-based activities as individuals. This builds their self-esteem, broadens their horizons and provides opportunities to develop peer friendships in the community. One young person was recently supported by staff to attend a weekend scout camp, which was a significant achievement which was celebrated by the whole staff team.

Young people continue to make excellent progress in education; their attendance is routinely 100%. Since the last inspection, a number of young people have successfully transitioned into full time mainstream education and are enjoying school, making good progress, building friendships and engaging in after school club activities.

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, restraint or discipline in a children's home, a written record is made in a volume kept for the purpose and fully meets regulations. (Regulation 17B (3) and (4))	29/11/2013

Recommendations

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

- ensure that all bathrooms, in the home, are well maintained and decorated.
(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*.