

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC013553
Inspection date	20/02/2012
Inspector	Angus Mackay
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	22/09/2011
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Service information

Brief description of the service

The home is registered to accommodate no more than eight young males. The home is privately owned and is one of three children's homes owned by the service providers. The home provides a service to young men who may display emotional and behavioural difficulties and whose assessed needs include sexually inappropriate behaviour. All young people see a therapist weekly and attend therapeutic groups as part of the home's assessment and treatment programme. Young people go to the organisation's school if they are not in college or work experience.

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 inspection judgement was good at the last full inspection on 22 September 2011, with two recommendations being set. The home has successfully addressed one of these and has partially addressed the other. There have been significant improvements to the physical environment and to recording systems, leading to improved outcomes for the young people.

The Registered Manager has left and the deputy manager is running the home, with guidance and support from the responsible individual. The home continues to run smoothly and young people and staff say that the manager is doing an excellent job. The manager has commenced a level 5 diploma in Leadership for Health and Social Care. The home is making arrangements to appoint a Registered Manager from within the company. The current management arrangement has ensured that young people have continued to receive good quality care but it is a requirement that home

fills the vacant position.

The manager has worked with the team to improve its approach to working with and understanding the diverse needs of the young people. The manager has restructured the way of working, including an equality and diversity guide which provides an improved focus for key working, enhancing the care provided to young people. Staff use this work to help young people to acknowledge feelings about their family background and to meet cultural and religious needs. Staff are encouraged to challenge stereotypes and identify appropriate role models for young people.

Young people say that they feel safe in the home and get on well with the staff and particularly with the manager. Young people say that the manager and responsible individual spend a lot of time with them and provide good management to the home. They highlighted the physical changes to the environment as positive changes since the last inspection. Young people are particularly pleased with the improved leisure facilities which they say helps to keep them healthy and occupied.

The manager has improved the recording of incidents which allows for improved analysis of events. The manager supplied examples of improvements in young people's behaviour which had resulted from interventions guided by an analysis of the antecedents to incidents. The manager has modified all written records to provide a more structured approach for staff and young people to record daily events. Daily, monthly and review reports all have the same structure allowing clear tracking of young people's progress. Staff encourage young people to contribute to all recording about them to fully engage them in their personal development. Staff confirm that this simple change has radically improved reports and provides much clearer evidence of young people's improved outcomes. The manager makes excellent use of monitoring information in providing a service to young people. The manager's own monitoring of the service provides excellent reports which she uses positively to improve staff performance and the quality of care to young people. The manager is not supplying reviews of these monitoring processes to the HMCI, at recommended intervals.

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
34 (2001)	ensure that a copy of the review conducted to monitor the matters set out in Schedule 6 is supplied to HMCI at appropriate intervals (Regulation 34(2) Schedule 6)	30/03/2012
7 (2001)	ensure a Registered Manager is appointed. (Regulation 7 (1))	30/03/2012

Recommendations

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

- ensure that an evaluation of the monthly monitoring of matters set out in Schedule 6 is sent to HMCI at six-monthly intervals. (Volume 5, statutory guidance, para.3.14)

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)*.