

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC013553
Inspection date	24/02/2014
Inspector	Keith Riley
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 is privately owned and provides care and accommodation for up to nine boys with emotional and 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 **satisfactory progress**.

At the last inspection in November 2013 the home was judged to be good for overall effectiveness. One requirement and two recommendations were made.

There is a suitable medication procedure in place and staff receive appropriate training. Records examined demonstrate that prescribed medication is given to young people in accordance with the prescription. Young people are given the opportunity to be seen by medical practitioner after any physical intervention and this is recorded in writing. This ensures that young people have appropriate attention given to their physical well-being, as well as their emotional well-being, after any incident requiring physical intervention.

The vast majority of young people continue to make good progress in the home. Their confidence improves immensely and they are able to express their difficult and challenging emotions in a safe and secure environment. Young people learn to be assertive rather than aggressive. An independent reviewing officer said, 'I have been extremely impressed by the huge amount of progress (NAME) has made'. For a minority of young people, who have not fully engaged with the therapy and support,

alternate placements have been found.

Young people are fully supported to have regular contact with individuals who are important to them. They are able to make sense of their past and have a sense of identity through the life story work that staff do with them, and through the work done with the home's psychotherapist. Outcomes are successful, such as young people making contact with siblings or grandparents.

Written records of any physical intervention now include an accurate description of the method used. This means that the Registered Manager can monitor events and ensure that agreed and appropriate methods are being used to safeguard young people. However, in one case, a physical intervention was not recorded in writing within 24 hours as specified in the regulations. Although the number of physical interventions is very low, there is a risk that such incidents are not analysed swiftly and immediate lessons learnt to inform practice.

Staff demonstrate they have an excellent knowledge of the young people in their care and how they are to meet their needs. The vast majority of risk assessments reflect current practice. However, in one case, a risk assessment had not been reviewed to reflect recent high risk behaviours. Although staff are aware of the risks and the required responses, this is not formally recorded in writing in the risk assessment.

The Registered Manager ensures there is a learning and development programme in place that is reviewed annually. However, the planned training does not currently include training in self harming behaviours. Although staff have experience, knowledge and previous training in such behaviours, there is a risk they are not up to date with current research and guidance.

There is a system in place to notify the appropriate authorities of significant events relating to the protection of young people accommodated in the home. However, on two occasions since the last inspection, notifications were not made to Ofsted. On one occasion there was not a clear written record of the action taken and the outcomes. Young people are not at immediate risk as a result of this shortfall.

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)	notify without delay, if any of the events listed in column 1 of the table in Schedule 5 takes place, the persons indicated in respect of the event in column 2 of the table (Regulation 30	30/04/2014

	(1))	
17B (2001)	ensure that within 24 hours of the use of any measure of control, restraint or discipline used in a children's home, a written record is made in a volume kept for the purpose (Regulation 17B (3))	30/04/2014

Recommendations

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

- update the learning and development programme to include training on self harming behaviours (NMS 18.2)
- ensure the procedure for monitoring and controlling any serious incidents are effective, in particular risk assessments are reviewed after each episode of a high risk behaviour (NMS 21.1)
- ensure the written record of a notifiable event includes details of the action taken and the outcome of any action or investigation. (NMS 24.2)

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*.