

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	06/02/2013
Inspector	Liz Driver
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	26/07/2012
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Service information

Brief description of the service

This home is registered to provide care for up to six young females who experience emotional and behavioural difficulties. The home is part of a private company which has an independent fostering agency, a total of three residential homes and an independent school.

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 July 2012, the home was judged to be good overall. Three recommendations made at the last inspection have been considered and addressed;

A restorative justice system is now in place rather than the previous sanction system. This has been relatively effective for those young people who are willing to engage. Only staff who have received training in restorative justice practice it; however training is booked for those staff who still require it. As a result young people are beginning to think of the consequences of their behaviours and can see for themselves the impact it is having.

Since the last inspection the home has dealt with escalated challenging behaviours. In view of this, the Registered Manager has ensured staff have access to support and advice through regular consultation meetings, group discussions, one to ones at any time requested and regular supervision. Staff are happy with the level of support they receive.

Designated staff have taken the lead in developing work carried out with young people around their life histories and experiences in life. Young people who have moved on since the last inspection were able to take albums with pictures, certificates of achievement in relation to their early and current life experiences. The Registered Manager is working with the company Psychologist to further develop these to ensure life experiences are revisited appropriately and recorded in a sensitive manner.

Since the last inspection, and as highlighted in internal quality assurance reports, senior managers and the Registered Manager are looking at ways to ensure they receive consistent and full information about young people at the time of admission. Currently this varies according to different local authorities. New admission forms being developed will set out clear expectations to local authorities about what is required.

Young people continue to receive a high quality of care at this setting resulting in improved outcomes over time. Currently the majority of young people are progressing well and can see this progress themselves; however for others, difficult legal procedures outside the home's control are affecting their behaviours. Staff are working extremely closely with all agencies to support and turn round these challenging behaviours. Feedback from other professionals is that the setting works hard to engage young people in positive life choices and improved behaviours. Child protection and safeguarding is given the highest priority. Staff continue to provide a nurturing, supportive environment with consistently strong boundaries and support delivered by a strong and experienced staff team who have in depth understanding of each individual young person's needs. Positive and meaningful relationships between staff and young people assist them to improve feelings of poor self-esteem and self-worth and to move them forward in their lives.

Feedback from professionals evidence the commitment and strong staff team the home has in supporting young people to address challenging behaviours and gain better outcomes. Relatives of young people confirm the home is welcoming and good at communicating.

Young people state they feel safe at the home and like the staff team. They confirm they have a voice in the running of the home and in decisions made about their present and future lives. They confirm staff guide them to keep safe when out in the community.

One area highlighted during this inspection is that not all young people take part in a fire evacuation drill as soon as possible after admission so they are able to take the right action in the case of a fire.

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
32 (2001)	the registered person shall ensure by means of fire drills at suitable intervals that the children accommodated at the home are aware of the procedures to be followed in case of fire. (Regulation 32 (1) (e))	28/02/2013

Recommendations

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

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*.