

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC016600
Inspection date	25/03/2013
Inspector	Sharron Escott
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 private children's home is registered for up to five young people with emotional and behavioural difficulties. The home provides individual support and preparation for independent living and offers an educational outreach service to support young people.

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 full inspection carried out in July 2012, the overall quality rating for the service was judged as good with two requirements and seven recommendations set within the inspection report. One requirement and six recommendations have been successfully met.

The requirement relating to the monitoring activities of the home has not been met. The manager and registered individual have not been successful in identifying a suitable person who is independent of the day-to-day running of the home to complete these monitoring activities.

Young people continue to enjoy good quality care. They have made positive attachments and have very good relationships with long-serving, well-trained and experienced staff. Young people said they feel safe, well looked after and that the staff are the best thing about the home. Young people have a detailed placement and health plan. Behaviour management targets and rewards are discussed and

agreed with the young people. As a result, young people are taking responsibility and learning from their behaviour and the choices they make. Documents reviewed identify that sanctions imposed are minimal and there has been no incident that has required physical intervention. This has boosted the young people's sense of achievement, self-esteem and confidence.

The recommendation relating to Runaway and Missing from Care protocols has not been fully met. The manager has developed individual protocols for the young people and forwarded these documents to the local police for their approval. However, despite missing from home episodes reducing significantly for some, these protocols have not been returned as approved, as a result they are not currently used to guide staff as approved procedures. As a result, this recommendation has been repeated.

The young person's guide has been reviewed and informs young people of to whom they can raise a concern and complain. Young people say they do not have any issues and have the names and numbers of different agencies if they wish to raise a complaint independently of the home.

The home has recently been redecorated and replacement furniture and soft furnishings have contributed to the home being a warm, welcoming and homely environment. Young people have contributed to the colours and selection of soft furnishings and are relaxed and comfortable in the home. Young people remain healthy and eat well-balanced diets. They contribute to planning and preparing meals.

All staff receive formal supervision on a regular basis. Staff say they feel supported and say the training available to them is good and has enabled them to meet the changing needs of the young people. Specialist training undertaken includes sexual exploitation, bereavement and drugs awareness. This specialist training has contributed significantly to supporting young people to reduce their risk-taking behaviour.

The Registered Manager completes regular checks on the conduct of the home, so management monitoring and consequent outcomes for children are good. Patterns and trends are clearly defined and are reviewed by the manager and staff during their monthly meetings. The home's development plan identifies areas for improvement that have been achieved and planned areas for further development. This monitoring has significantly contributed to the care team being proactive and responsive to the changing needs and behaviours of young people, to continue to promote positive outcomes.

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
33 (2001)	ensure that those monitoring the quality of care are not directly concerned with the conduct of the home. (Regulation 33(2)(C))	17/05/2013

Recommendations

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

- ensure that the Runaway and Missing from Home and Care protocols and procedures are maintained and managed by the police and are individualised to meet the needs of the young people in placement. (NMS 5.6)

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*.