

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC016600
Inspection date	31/01/2014
Inspector	Paul Clark
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	31/10/2013
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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**.

The home has responded positively to the four recommendations made at the last inspection. There is now an effective system in place for the recording of sanctions applied. This now includes a record of the duration of the sanction. The home has a system in place for making decisions on staff recruitment in the light of criminal convictions being declared or discovered. The home now has a system in place which allows them to effectively evaluate staff learning and development programmes and update staff training as necessary. All staff now receive one to one supervision at least monthly. These developments and improvements add to the quality of care provided by the home and help to keep young people safe.

Questionnaire data summaries returned from parents, staff, placing authorities indicate that the quality of care provided by the home is of a high standard. The number of young people going missing from the home has reduced significantly since the time of the previous inspection.

Young people said that key workers spend time going through the content of their placement plans with them, that they feel that their views are respected and they are able to make changes to the plan, if they disagree with any part of its content. In addition to being able to make their views about their care known to their key workers, young people said that there are monthly house meetings where they can make decisions about issues affecting their day to day living, such as food choices and activities.

The home have an independent visitor who young people can talk to if they have any concerns. Young people are also able to raise any concerns about their care with their placing social workers or with their independent reviewing officers at their looked after children reviews. Young people said that the home works hard to meet all of their personal and cultural needs. One young person expressed an interest in learning Arabic as this was part of their family background; the home arranged for them to have lessons from an Arabic tutor. Relationships between staff and young people are good. The staff group are from a range of ethnically diverse backgrounds. All of these measures help to give young people a sense of belonging and contribute to their self-worth. One young person said 'the staff are amazing they look after us really well and I feel safe here.'

The home's latest Statement of Purpose and children's guide are well formatted for young people and are comprehensive in all necessary details, and clearly state the aims and objectives of the home. These documents were last reviewed in October 2013. Regular review of key documents helps to provide young people and stakeholders with accurate and up to date information about the home.

No concerns or complaints about the service have been received by Ofsted since the time of the previous inspection. The home has a clearly written policy on complaints and keeps a complaints record book. No complaints have been received by the home since the time of the last inspection.

There have been no notifications of significant events received from the home since December 2012. The Registered Manager stated that no events listed under Schedule 5 had occurred during this time period.

The home has not arranged for a monthly monitoring visit of the home to be conducted since September 2013 and therefore no written report of the conduct of the home has been produced, or sent to Ofsted as required by Regulation 33. This means that the function of the home has not been properly monitored by the leadership and management of the home.

The home last conducted a review of the quality of care in September 2013 which included all of the items contained in Schedule 6. There were no adverse indications arising from this review.

Records held by the home indicate that appropriate health and safety, and fire safety checks and measures are being conducted in a timely manner and this helps to ensure the safety of young people.

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 the registered provider arranges for a monitoring visit to the home to be conducted at least monthly and prepare a written report on the conduct of the home, and that a copy of the report is supplied to HMCI (Regulation 33)	28/02/2014

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*.