

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	08/01/2013
Inspector	Elaine Cray
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	06/11/2012
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Service information

Brief description of the service

This children's home provides care and accommodation for up to three young people with emotional and behavioural difficulties, aged between eight and 17 years. The home is owned by a private childcare organisation.

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 home was judged as good at the last full inspection which took place in November 2012. It is judged to be making good progress following this interim inspection. No statutory requirements or recommendations were made at the last inspection. The home continues to maintain good standards, promote improvement and provides good outcomes for young people.

Young people continue to make good educational, social and emotional progress and they receive a good quality of care. Joint working between staff, young people and professionals is successful because young people are placed at the centre of the framework for care and safeguarding their welfare. Young people attend and do well in education; they enjoy a range of activities and maintain meaningful relationships with staff.

Young people of all ages and abilities learn and develop because they are cared for by a responsive and sensitive staff team. Young people are listened and appropriately responded to. Staff understand the different ways young people express their needs. This quality of care is further improved with recent staff training

in understanding autism.

Young people grow in self-confidence because they are viewed positively by staff. Behaviour is managed as young people are supported to explore their backgrounds, emotions and resulting actions. Young people make positive choices, look forward to becoming more independent and they grow in maturity.

The welfare and safety of some young people is often compromised by some significant risk taking and challenging behaviours. While some complex and challenging behaviours persist, there is an overall reduction in risk taking activities. This is strongly reinforced by a significant reduction of physical interventions in the home.

Monitoring the patterns and trends in behaviour is particularly useful in developing behaviour strategies and improving young people's behaviour. While the majority of records relating to behaviour management are detailed, a most recent central record did not provide sufficient detail about the duration of physical restraint and as recorded in individual young people's records.

Safeguarding strategies and behaviour support are facilitated with a strong commitment to multi-agency work. Some young people's safety needs are supported by a variety of agencies, including the child and adolescent mental health team, independent advocacy and the police.

The Registered Manager and staff continue to maintain and improve the standard of care provided and outcomes for young people. Staff development and monitoring processes are effective. Young people are looked after by trained staff who understand procedures and implement a well-managed framework of care to the young people.

Areas for improvement

Recommendations

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

- ensure the system in place to monitor the adequacy of record keeping extends to central records and is in line with young people's records. (NMS 22)

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*.