

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC021683
Inspection date	27/02/2013
Inspector	Anthony Kyem
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	15/08/2012
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Service information

Brief description of the service

The home, run by a company, provides care and accommodation for up to four young people of either sex from 11 to 17 years of age. The purpose of the home is to assist young people to return home, wherever possible, or to prepare young people for their independence.

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 was judged to provide young people with good quality care, at its previous inspection in August 2012. There were no requirements or previous recommendations made. Additionally, there have been no complaints or concerns since the previous inspection.

Young people continue to benefit from positive relationships with staff. Their views about the home and their relationships with staff are consistently positive. Young people say, 'This is one of the best homes I have lived in. I can talk to the staff. I can actually trust them and I find it hard to trust people.'

An ex-resident says, 'My stay at Marshall Rd was probably the best experience I've had in any care facility. I went from being an idiotic young person on bail, to the person I am today. They helped and supported me to change my life...I'm proud of the fact I lived there.'

Young people have access to the services they need to promote their positive health. They are registered with local health services and they have access to specialist support, to promote their psychological and emotional well-being. Young people benefit from good quality health care that promotes needs effectively.

The home provides young people with the support they need to make sense of their past experiences. Many of the young people who come to live here, have a previous history of offending. Staff work with young people and other professional agencies to ensure young people's risk taking behaviours are minimised. This enables young people to make positive choices and move forward with their lives. Young people make good progress in relation to their starting points. One young person said, 'I haven't done anything wrong since coming here.'

Staff have the skills, confidence and relevant experience to manage young people's behaviours safely. The use of sanctions and restraint is rare. Targeted incentives and rewards are used very effectively, to promote young people's positive behaviour within the home. Staff know what to do to promote young people's safe return if they go missing. However, not all known risks associated with young people are recorded clearly, to promote safe working practice within the home. As a result, the safety of young people or others could be compromised.

Not all young people currently attend education, or alternative provision. As a result, there are some young people, who are not developing the skills they will need to learn and achieve. Staff continue to support young people with their education. There are clear expectations for young people to access and attend some form of education, training or employment.

Some young people have yet, to have placement plans completed. These are currently being written to ensure that staff have a positive understanding of young people's needs. Young people benefit from pathway plans to promote their planned transition to independence. Staff maintain positive relationships with young people's families to help young people sustain their positive attachments.

There are no issues with bullying. Young people are protected from abuse, bullying, neglect and exploitation. Young people enjoy living at the home and they have a strong sense of personal safety.

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
11	promote and make proper provision for the welfare of children	11/03/2013

(2001)	accommodated at the home. Specifically in relation to the development of a placement plan for all looked after children. (Regulation 11(1)(a))	
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Recommendations

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

- ensure young people are supported to attend education, training or employment (NMS 8.3)
- ensure the child's placement plan sets out any specific strategies that have been agreed to reduce the incidences of any negative behaviour. (Children Act 1989 Guidance and Regulations Volume 5: Children's Homes, statutory guidance, paragraph 2.88)

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*.