

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC021683
Inspection date	30/01/2012
Inspector	Mandy Williams
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	08/11/2011
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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 (March 2011)*.

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.

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.

Progress

Since their previous inspection the service is judged to be making **inadequate** progress.

At the last full inspection in November 2011, the overall effectiveness of the home was rated as good. At this time, Ofsted asked the provider to make improvements in the following four areas.

The home's Statement of Purpose did not contain an updated list of staff qualifications; pathway plans for care leavers were not in place; the storage of medicines was not secure as the cabinet in which they were stored was not secured to the wall; and the home was in need of some maintenance and improvements to décor throughout.

The home has since updated its Statement of Purpose so that it contains the required information. However, in doing so, the home has omitted to date the document, so that it is now difficult to be assured that the version being considered is in fact the most current one.

No progress has been made in relation to the development of pathway plans for care leavers. This is of particular significance for this home as many young people move on from here to independent living, which needs to be a smooth transition to improve their chances of being successful. The home has made plans to purchase a new lockable medicine cabinet that can be secured to the wall, but this is not yet in place. They have also taken the opportunity, while one independence unit has been empty, to begin the process of decorating this unit. However, this is still to be completed and the remainder of the home remains in need of redecoration, to create a more homely environment. Consequently, these three recommendations are to be repeated.

Young people contribute to the running of the home and their views are actively sought by means of regular discussion and a monthly survey devised by the home. Young people say that they are happy living here, they get on well with the staff and feel fairly treated. One young person said about the staff group, 'they have been good and looked after me' and 'they have tried to sort out my problems for me.' Young people could not identify any changes that were required in the home.

The home has a stable group of staff that has worked here for many years. Staff act as positive role models for the young people and work well as a team. They are consistent in the messages that they give to young people. This assists young people to develop positive relationships with staff and helps them develop confidence in the responses of those around them.

The monitoring arrangements, to comply with the requirements of Regulation 33 and 34, take place routinely and relevant documentation relating to both has been forwarded to Ofsted. This serves to highlight issues in the home that need to be resolved. For example, not all the headings in the sanctions book had been completed fully; this has since been addressed.

In relation to the requirement to notify Ofsted of significant events, there has only been one incident since the last inspection. Ofsted received verbal notification, but this was not later confirmed in writing. The requirement to do this is designed to safeguard young people resident in the home.

There have been three incidents of restraint since the last inspection. Records of these include a full description of the method of restraint used. However, these do not currently include details of any methods adopted in order to diffuse the situation and avoid the need to restrain. The current volume used for recording such restraints has also been page numbered incorrectly, so that it is confusing to the reader.

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
17B (2001)	ensure that where a measure of restraint is used on a child, the record includes details of any methods used to avoid the need to use that measure (Regulation 17B (4)(b))	29/02/2012
30 (2001)	ensure that any notification made in accordance with this regulation which is given orally shall be confirmed in writing. (Regulation 30 (3))	29/02/2012

Recommendations

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

- ensure medicines kept within the home are stored safely and are accessible only

by those for whom they are intended (NMS 6.13)

- ensure the children's home provides a comfortable and homely environment and is well maintained and decorated throughout (NMS 10.3)
- ensure pathway plans are in place for eligible care leavers (NMS 12.2)
- ensure that the home's Statement of Purpose is dated, so that it is clear when this was last reviewed (NMS 13.3)
- ensure that the page numbering in the bound restraint volume are in correct numerical order. (Volume 5, statutory guidance, para 2.91)