

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	17/10/2012
Inspector	Sonya Robinson
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	12/06/2012
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Service information

Brief description of the service

The home is owned by a voluntary organisation. It provides accommodation for a maximum of three young people with emotional or behavioural difficulties.

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 in June 2012, the home was judged as adequate overall. At that inspection, Ofsted asked the provider to make improvements in some areas.

The provider was asked to ensure food provided reflected young people's individual and cultural tastes; that young people have an opportunity to have resolution of informal concerns; that there were safe system in place for medication with regards to the recording, handling and disposal of medication; and the Statement of Purpose and children's guide were updated.

Additionally, the home were asked to ensure that young people were encouraged to express their views, through for example, regular young people meetings and to ensure that young people received a personal allowance appropriate to their age and understanding.

Since that last inspection young people have been involved in a full review of the menus. Young people say that the food is much improved and a balanced healthy and cultural menu is now in place and 'it's much better.' There is now a 'grumbles'

system in place which is capturing day-to-day issues raised, such as young people wanting a lift as opposed to using public transport and gentle explanations by staff. This means that young people's level of frustration at times been more reasoned.

Medication systems are much improved and issues raised on the previous inspection have been resolved. However, staff are not consistently following prescription guidance, specifically, when medication is to be given on an empty stomach. This has not directly impacted on young people's well-being.

The Statement of Purpose and young people's guide have both been reviewed and updated since the last inspection and now contain Ofsted's up-to-date details and information for young people about how to access their social worker and independent reviewing officer. This provides young people with the means of contacting their placing authority without having to ask for this information. However, during the revision of the Statement of Purpose some information has inadvertently been omitted, including the arrangements to counter bullying and information regarding the home's policy on anti-discriminatory practice. This information is required because the Statement of Purpose is used by placing authorities, parents and others to find out the aims of the home and how it operates.

Young people's meetings are now taking place, generally on a weekly basis. They have recently included such topics as bedtimes, expectations regarding behaviour and the planning of activities for the forthcoming week. This means that young people can communicate their views on all aspects of their care and support. Young people said that issues around paying for reparation out of their personal allowance have been resolved. They said that they receive a 'fair amount but would like more of course.' A fair amount for personal allowance is given to young people at this time.

Since the last inspection outcomes for young people have continued to improve, particularly with regards to young people going missing from care. This has occurred through the positive work that the home has undertaken with young people with regards to staying safe. They have also put in a multi-agency risk assessment with specific young people where high levels of concerns have been apparent. This has been positive in terms of young people's well-being and safety.

The home are also in the process of reviewing young people's documentation in order to better reflect the work that they do with young people and to show improved outcomes. As a result of all of the above the home is judged to have made satisfactory progress since the last inspection.

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
4 (2001)	ensure that the home's written statement of purpose shall consist as to the matters under this regulation. (Regulation 4, Schedule 1)	30/11/2012

Recommendations

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

- ensure prescribed medication is given in accordance with the prescription, specifically if medication is to be given on an empty stomach. (NMS 6.15)

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)*.