

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	21/02/2012
Inspector	Lucy Ansell
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	17/08/2011
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Service information

Brief description of the service

This is a specialist home dealing with children and young people who have been severely traumatised or psychologically deprived, with disordered patterns of attachment. This home is part of a children's charity and, along with its school, provides a programme of care, therapeutic work and education for up to 10 children and young people, aged between five and 13 years of age.

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.

At the previous inspection carried out in August 2011, the home was judged to be outstanding. There was one recommendation made regarding duplication of placement plans and this has been fully met.

The home has improved its care plans. There is now only one, which is written in a child friendly way and with the full involvement of the young people so that they are clear on expectations and intended outcomes. The children have fully embraced owning their placement plans, which are individually personalised with cartoons and targets for each child. A further recommendation is now made for the behaviour management plans to also follow this method of personalising and to ensure they are child friendly. This will allow young people to take more responsibility for their behaviour in an age appropriate way.

The home has further improved its quality assurance role by putting in place a recognised system for monitoring outcomes and progress used by mental health

professionals. This quality assurance system is completed several times a year by children and multi professionals involved in their care. It generates a report whose statistical data helps with monitoring outcomes and confirms any progress made. It also provides information for all staff about areas to continue to work on. The home has started to produce a full and comprehensive report which tracks a child's journey from referral to final report, including all progress made. This can be used by respective local authorities in their planning to determine the next most appropriate placement.

A consistent approach from the management and staff team during changes in staffing over the last six months has ensured a positive and stable environment for the children. Children benefit from this staff team who have an enthusiasm, drive and a real commitment to their responsibilities to the children. The children are settled and happy and they enjoy positive relationships with their key workers and care givers. This has resulted in them making positive changes in their behaviours and enjoying being children. The children are extremely well managed and supported which helps them to achieve positive outcomes. One new child, when it was explained to them that the inspector's role was to ensure children were happy, safe and well cared for, replied: "I am".

Areas for improvement

Recommendations

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

- ensure children are encouraged to take responsibility for their behaviour with child friendly behaviour plans that are appropriate to their age and abilities (NMS 3.6)

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)*.