

Children's homes - monitoring

Inspection date	04/08/2015
Unique reference number	SC023737
Type of inspection	Monitoring
Inspector	Anna Williams

This monitoring visit

This visit was undertaken as a result of information received by Ofsted in relation to a young person accommodated in the home. The inspector reviewed admission information and sampled documents relating to the safety and welfare of young people. Feedback was gathered from young people, staff and external agencies.

Admission processes are clearly described within the home's statement of purpose. In practice, when one young person moved into the home not all pre-admission paperwork had been gathered in advance. As a result, staff were caring for a young person with limited written information available to refer to and guide them. The manager who had background knowledge of the young person did provide both telephone and hands on support to staff. However, the minimal documents available to staff to direct them in the day-to-day care of the new young person risks an inconsistent approach at an early stage of their placement.

The senior management team do not undertake a written compatibility assessment prior to the admission of a young person. Managers' confirm that assessments of individual young people's needs are informal. These are verbally completed with potential placing social workers. This does not evidence how safe admission decisions are made. For example, how managers' consider both the unique needs of the child and the presenting behaviour of children already at the home.

Two serious events relating to the safety and welfare of young people placed in the home were not notified to Ofsted. These include a serious incident and police involvement in relation to one young person. This means the regulator is not kept up to date with how the home is safeguarding the welfare of young people placed.

Since the previous inspection, there have been four missing episodes. Staff respond promptly to such incidents. Records are detailed and clearly describe the actions they take to safeguard and search for young people.

Information about this children's home

The home is owned by a private organisation. It is registered to provide care and accommodation for a maximum of three young people, who have emotional and behavioural difficulties.

What does the children's home need to do to improve?

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 (England) Regulations 2015 and the *Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards*. The registered person(s) must comply with the given timescales.

Requirement	Due date
The registered person must ensure that the home is at all times conducted in a manner which is consistent with its statement of purpose; in particular any criteria used for the admission of children to the home. (Regulation 16 (5))	23/09/2015
The registered person must notify HMCI and each other relevant person without delay if— (b) an incident requiring police involvement occurs in relation to a child which the registered person considers to be serious; or (e) there is any other incident relating to a child which the registered person considers to be serious. (Regulation 40 (4)(b)(e))	23/09/2015

Information about this inspection

The purpose of this visit was to monitor the action taken and the progress made by the home since their last Ofsted inspection.

This inspection was carried out under the Care Standards Act 2000.

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