

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	07/02/2012
Inspector	Jim Palmer
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Date of last inspection	26/04/2011
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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

This children's home is run by an organisation and is registered to care for up to three children. The home is situated near a seaside town and is close to shops, local amenities and the beach.

Progress

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

At the last full inspection in April 2011, this home was judged good overall and outstanding in the quality of care and leadership and management outcome groups. The strengths of the service remain unchanged from the previous inspection. Two recommendations were made as a result of that inspection and good progress has been made by the home in addressing those matters.

The staff and management team remain committed to improving the quality of the service and achieving positive outcomes for young people. Staff are very knowledgeable about the individual needs of young people and how they are to be met. Relationships between young people and staff are excellent, and young people say that they have made significant progress since living in the home.

Since the last inspection, the home now has improved systems for ensuring that young people's health needs are identified and met. The organisation employs a full-time nurse, who is able to provide or access specialist training and guidance for staff in working with children or young people with complex health needs. An information pack for staff has been introduced by the nurse. This holds a description of common childhood illnesses, including photographs of common symptoms, to assist staff if young people raise health concerns. Any significant concerns are referred to the company nurse or the young person's doctor. The staff and the nurse liaise with other health professionals, for advice on matters, such as diet, health promotion and sexual health. Contacts with the child and adolescent mental health service are good. The home is able to respond quickly and to secure appropriate services in order to meet the physical and emotional health of young people. All appointments and treatment are well recorded and regularly audited by managers and the nurse.

In order to promote greater independence, some young people are able to administer their own medication, subject to an assessment of any risk. In one instance a risk assessment for self-administration of medication had been started but a completed assessment was not available on file.

The home has reviewed the use of sanctions and restraints since the last inspection and this was discussed with staff in team meetings. New records for the use of any sanction or restraint are now in place. These are regularly audited and any pattern or

trend is identified and management action recorded in the quarterly review of the quality of care. Copies of these reviews are regularly forwarded to Ofsted. The home has introduced new training for staff on behaviour management, which focuses on de-escalation and setting clear expectations for young people. Sanctions are well recorded and only one restraint has been used since the last inspection. The home has developed a culture of managing behaviour in a positive manner. Young people say they are responding positively to changes. For example, they are making good progress in school and are more settled in the home. Young people say that a good understanding of the expectations and boundaries has reduced risks for them. Young people are encouraged to take a greater degree of responsibility for their behaviours.

Areas for improvement

Recommendations

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

- ensure that children that are able wish to keep and take their own medication can do so safely; namely, that there is a current risk assessment in place.(NMS 6.14)