

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	27/09/2012
Inspector	Stella Lovie
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	16/05/2012
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Service information

Brief description of the service

This independent home provides care and accommodation for up to six children and young people with emotional and 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 **good progress**.

The home received an adequate judgement at the last full inspection in May 2012. Since then, it has demonstrated continued improvement in quality of care and outcomes for children and young people. The Registered Manager has ensured that the requirement made has been addressed, together with the large majority of the recommendations that were raised at that previous inspection.

Children and young people now make significant progress from their starting points across all aspects of their emotional and social development. This has resulted in a reduced frequency of challenging and aggressive behaviours. That progress is facilitated by staff's improved use of positive and consistent behaviour management strategies. As a result, children and young people are able to come to terms with issues from their past and engage constructively in planning for their futures.

Children and young people enjoy mostly good relationships with staff. This promotes confidence and trust. Staff are clear that physical intervention is very much a last resort and are more comfortable using those positive relationships to diffuse difficult situations. Consequently, there has been a reduction in the use of restraint. This demonstrates that children and young people learn better management of their

behaviour.

Staff are effective in helping children and young people find more constructive ways of coping with their distress or anxiety than by running away. They work with the children and young people to ensure that they feel safe and to support them to find other means of expressing their feelings. Consequently, the incidences of children and young people missing from the home are minimised.

The management team in the home continues to provide strong leadership. Staff are enabled to learn from mistakes and to practise in a clearly defined, goal-orientated manner. Managers are assertive in addressing competency issues. This helps to ensure a good standard of care for the children and young people.

Record keeping continues to be a particular strength. This helps children and young people to have a clear account of their time in the home. However, despite staff efforts, some children and young people are missing key documents from their placing authorities in their files. While this does not represent a significant impact on the care they receive, it does inhibit staff from having a complete picture of their backgrounds.

Given the demonstrable improvements since the last inspection, the home is making good progress.

Areas for improvement

Recommendations

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

- ensure effective sharing of information held in the responsible authorities records, including copies of all relevant records and documents. (NMS 22.7)

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)*.