

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC034953
Inspection date	18/12/2013
Inspector	Stella Henderson
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	30/05/2013
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Service information

Brief description of the service

This children's home is operated by the local authority. It provides care and accommodation for up to five 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 its full inspection in May 2013 and the overall effectiveness of the home was judged to be adequate.

Since then the manager has made significant improvement in the quality of care enjoyed by young people. He has achieved this by demonstrating strong management and leadership and in meeting the requirements and recommendations raised at the last inspection.

For example, the Regulation 34 report is now a more effective vehicle to ensure positive change for young people. The views and opinions of young people are more apparent in this monitoring report. Young people now have more influence on how the home operates, contributing more to their placement plans and in re-designing the home's independent living plans for instance.

The manager has also ensured that all eligible young people now have pathway plans. This means they are better supported in their transition to independence. As a result one young person has successfully moved on to supported lodgings.

Young people have benefitted from a number of other improvements because of changes in staff practice and care planning. Objectives to be achieved are much clearer and better evaluated. There have been significant reductions in missing from home incidents and unauthorised absences. Young people who once gravitated back towards family are spending significantly more time at the home.

Young people are making more positive choices for themselves. This means they are less likely to put themselves at risk through drug taking and offending behaviours, both of which are reduced. Effective work by staff means that young people are more able to reflect on their feelings, discuss their emotions and accept help from professionals.

All young people are now in some form of education or training. They continue to be protected by effective safeguarding arrangements and strong partnership working with the police and other child protection agencies.

One shortfall is identified at this inspection. The notifications of significant events are completed within required timescales, but administrative processes at a senior level sometimes causes delay. This prevents the regulator from taking action within a timely fashion should this be required.

Areas for improvement

Recommendations

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

- improve the system in place to notify within 24 hours the persons and appropriate authorities of the occurrence of significant events in accordance with Regulation 30 (NMS 24.1)

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*.