

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	21/01/2013
Inspector	Stephen Trainor
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	25/09/2012
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Service information

Brief description of the service

A local authority operates this children's home. This service is registered for up to six young people of either gender, aged between 11 and 17 years of age. The home cares for 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 **satisfactory progress**.

At the last full inspection, the home was judged as outstanding. The children's home has maintained a high quality of care between inspections and this continues to secure positive outcomes for children and young people, but some areas of work are still in the process of being addressed. The home's Registered Manager has a clear plan on where further improvements will be made.

The home provides a strong, child-focused service that is conducive to children and young people developing their potential. Five of the six young people living at the home at the last inspection were present and continue to make progress. Alternative arrangements were needed for one young person and a change of placement was recently secured to better support safeguarding arrangements. The home's Registered Manager is anticipating a reduction in incidents of missing from the home following this move. Young people benefit from consistent practice that allows their lives to improve.

Older young people continue with their efforts to build their independence skills for

the time that they leave the home. Young people living at the home have grown and matured and are making some sensible decisions. Pathway and after care plans are in place to support this process. A final supportive push is required for older residents to be fully equipped with skills required to live independently and gain meaningful employment. Developing financial capability remains an area of work in progress.

The views of the young people, staff, family members and partners are captured during visits made to the home under the requirements of regulations 33 and 34. Reports produced following these visits provide a clear snapshot in time of what it is like to live in the home and sufficiently evaluate and analyse processes and data. Evaluation of the last regulation 34 report shows that some areas of work are still in the process of being actioned. Young people do remain central to all work at the home and staff work at a pace suited to them.

Three recommendations set at the last inspection have been addressed and this led to further improvements to the home's operational systems. Management at the home have established a suitable system to notify Ofsted on the outcomes of notifiable events. Some strategies adopted to reduce missing from home have worked and the home's Registered Manager is taking action to make further reductions. The home's management team continue to liaise with the police missing from home coordinator regarding deployment decisions. Plans to develop the home's accommodation are known to Ofsted and a rolling programme of redecoration and refurbishment is established.

Programmes run by key workers positively change young people's behaviours. Placements are stable and young people usually take responsibility for their behaviour. This inspection coincided with the continuing use of sanctions for misappropriation of money. A different approach is needed to change some young people's behaviours.

Young people's education is actively encouraged by staff and there is good attendance at school and college. Education is an integral part of each child's specific placement plan and their achievements improve self-confidence and future prospects. Young people are proud of their achievements and regularly reflect on their progress with staff and this keeps them motivated. Some coordinated work with a local school partner enabled a placement to be maintained. Encouragingly, young people remain optimistic about achieving good examination results.

Young people work closely with staff and hard work has created an interesting home where they like to be. Relationships are strong, with individual differences being accepted and valued by all living and working at the home. Looking at the starting point of some placements, it is clear that individuals prosper in the home's friendly and caring environment. Young people confirm that they are happy, safe and relaxed living in their home.

Young people continue to receive a good standard of care from an experienced and qualified staff team. The service provided is a strong, child-focused service that is

conducive to young people developing their potential. Some new ideas and initiatives are being introduced as a result of consultation processes. Everyone connected with the service is contributing to controlling the home's activities and this adds value to the quality of the services being provided.

Areas for improvement

Recommendations

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

- ensure sanctions and rewards are clear and effective; in particular, young people are encouraged to take responsibility for their behaviour especially frequent misappropriation of money (NMS 3.8)
- ensure young people are supported to develop financial capability, knowledge and skills as part of their pathway planning. (NMS 12.1)

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*.