

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC035499
Inspection date	14/02/2013
Inspector	David Martin
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	21/06/2012
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Service information

Brief description of the service

The home is provided by a local authority and is registered to care for up to six young people with emotional or 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**.

This service had its last full inspection in June 2012 and its overall effectiveness was judged to be good. Quality of care, safeguarding and leadership and management were also considered to be good. Three recommendations were made to further improve practice. These related to the effectiveness of measures to help young people understand the harmful effects of smoking, the qualifications held by staff, and communication with young people's parents. The response to the recommendations is mixed.

The home has made progress in helping young people to understand the harmful effects of smoking tobacco. It has obtained specific health information and is liaising as appropriate with health colleagues. The numbers of young people who smoke is decreasing. The work the home has done in this area contributes to the overall health and wellbeing of young people.

The home has made limited progress in increasing the numbers of staff who have child care qualifications. Staff have continued to complete coursework but this has not been evaluated or marked. The home is, therefore, unable to demonstrate that it

employs suitably qualified staff in sufficient numbers to meet the needs of young people.

The home has not made any progress in actively seeking the views of parents. In addition, parents are not consulted as part of Regulation 33 monitoring processes. The home is not making full use potential sources of feedback in evaluating whether or not it is operating in the best interests of young people.

Case files for young people are maintained in good order. They demonstrate that the home is actively addressing the needs of young people in connection with their identity. There are strong risk assessments and up-to-date care plans addressing any safeguarding issues. This contributes to the protection of young people.

As a result of this inspection, one requirement is made and one recommendation. They concern staff qualifications and consultation with parents.

Areas for improvement

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 Regulations 2001 and the National Minimum Standards. The registered person(s) must comply with the given timescales.

Reg.	Requirement	Due date
26 (2001)	ensure that staff have the qualifications necessary for the work they perform. (Regulation 26(3)(b))	01/06/2013

Recommendations

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

- ensure the views of young people's parents are sought and that they are consulted by the person carrying out visits under Regulation 33. (NMS 1.4) and (Volume 5 Children's Homes para 3.13)

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*.