

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	07/03/2012
Inspector	Malcolm Stannard / Linda Christie
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Secure Unit

Date of last inspection	18/10/2011
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Service information

Brief description of the service

The centre is registered as a children's home, operated by a local authority and is approved by the Secretary of State to provide secure care and accommodation. Education is provided on site within a purpose-built school facility. The centre is registered to provide care and accommodation for up to 42 young people of either gender.

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.

At the last inspection in October 2011 the overall effectiveness of the centre was judged to be good. There was one requirement and eight recommendations made. The requirement and three of the recommendations have been fully met. Four recommendations related to the formal educational provision at the centre. The progress made in this area will be reviewed at the next inspection of the education provision. One recommendation has not been met. In addition, there is a further recommendation made at this inspection relating to submitting Regulation 34 reports to Ofsted. This interim inspection finds good progress has been made in improving the outcomes for young people.

A previous requirement was made to ensure that formal supervision for all staff is carried out regularly and consistently. The frequency of sessions held has considerably improved. Additionally, the audit and monitoring system in place helps to ensure that prompt action is taken by managers when meetings have not occurred. These arrangements ensure that staff are sufficiently guided and

supported to effectively care for young people.

Young people receive good information in the written guide to the centre. Contents include details of how to contact external professionals and advocates, both by the telephone and in writing. This helps to ensure that young people are aware of how to access people who are independent of the centre for support and advice.

Reports written by Regulation 33 visitors following a visit to the centre have improved. They now routinely include views of parents, staff and external professionals, such as youth offending workers. This ensures that their views on the conduct and running of the centre are reflected and valued.

The structure and organisation of behaviour management data is much improved. All data is now recorded on one system, meaning that it is reliable and does not conflict with other information held. Senior staff use this information to identify trends in behaviour and analyse this using a number of different indicators. The reliability and consistency of information available enables managers to quickly identify and address behaviour management issues, which helps young people to develop appropriate social skills.

Some progress has been made in coordinating the direct intervention work undertaken with young people. The work addresses identified needs such as personal health and keeping yourself safe. Key workers roles and duties have been reviewed and a multi-disciplinary meeting to review young people's needs and progress has been established. However, procedures and processes are not yet established to ensure consistency in practice, primarily, which staff will carry out the work with young people. This means that some young people receive disjointed intervention work. The recommendation previously made is repeated.

Regulation 34 summary reports detailing development and progress at the centre, have not been supplied to Ofsted. The manager explained that the system used for combining the required data was currently being developed to enable a more comprehensive report to be produced.

Managers and staff continue to develop practice to improve outcomes for young people. The introduction of an extended learning day means that all young people have the opportunity to experience a range of enhanced learning pursuits.

Areas for improvement

Recommendations

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

- ensure all staff understand, share and implement the home's ethos, philosophy and approach to caring for children; specifically ensure that all direct intervention work is consistently coordinated (NMS 3.4)

- ensure that summary reports of Regulation 34 monitoring are sent to Ofsted every six months and within 28 days of completion. (Volume 5, statutory guidance, para 3.14)

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)*.