

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	16/12/2013
Inspector	Debbie Foster
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	17/07/2013
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Service information

Brief description of the service

This is a local authority children's home, which provides care and accommodation for up to five young people from 11 to 15 years 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 **inadequate progress**.

This interim inspection focused on the progress made by the home since the last full inspection in July 2012, at which the overall judgement was good. The home is making inadequate progress. This is due to the service not implementing the requirement made at the last inspection and a decline in aspects of the outcomes for young people. In particular to their general and risk taking behaviour, and their education attendance and attainment.

Action has been taken to implement the two recommendations made at the last inspection. Each young person over sixteen now has a completed pathway plan which the home and young person have contributed to. This ensures that planning and preparation for leaving care is taking place to support the young person into adulthood. The staff are consulting with children, their parents and placing authorities, through a variety of medians. These include daily discussions, young people's meetings, direct work and reviews and questionnaires to attain their views; this mean they influence the running of the home and have an input into improving the quality of care.

The requirement which has not been implemented in full relates to the Regulation 33

visitor not consulting with parents during monthly monitoring visits in order to form and support an opinion of the standard of care provided in the home.

The staff team continue to be committed, caring and persevere to provide sound and overall, safe care to young people. Over the last six months the progress of young people has been limited in a number of areas. The behaviour of the group of young people within the home has continued to be regularly disruptive. Risk taking behaviour relating to substance misuse and some criminal activity is taking place. Education attendance and attainment is not improving or has not yet been sustained for some young people. This is not ensuring that young people are making suitable progress in their lives to experience more positive outcomes which they will benefit from, and will support them sufficiently into adulthood.

There was a deficit in the implementation of the child protection procedures in one case. These included a delay in ensuring that the initial person contacted in the local authority promptly responded. Subsequently to this; the lack of the local authorities concise decision making and following child protection procedures and processes delayed actions and conclusions to a safeguarding matter. This could have had serious implications for the young person's safety. Training for staff in safeguarding procedures has not been refreshed for three years in some cases. This has impacted on staff's ability to deal with safeguarding concerns in an effective and efficient way in all instances. This could have had serious implications for the young person's safety.

Behaviour management and risk assessments provide good detail and inform staff how care and support should be provided young people. However, not all the identified direct work is taking place at suitable intervals to assist in reducing or eliminating the negative behaviour for some young people.

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
33 (2001)	interview with their consent and in private, such of the children, their parents, relatives and persons working at the home, as appears necessary in order to form an opinion of the standard of care provided in the home and supply a copy of the report to HMCI within stipulated timescales. (Regulation 33 (4)(a),(5)(a))	28/02/2013
11 (2001)	make the proper provision for care, education, supervision and, where appropriate, treatment, of children accommodated there. In particular, that the needs of individual young people can be met along with the needs of the group. (Regulation 11 (1) (b))	28/03/2013

Recommendations

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

- ensure the management of the home ensures all staff's work is consistent with these Regulations and National Minimum Standards, the homes policies and procedures. In particular that staff are fully aware of child protection procedures and that these are followed in a timely fashion to safeguard young people fully (NMS 21.3)
- ensure staff are equipped with the skills required to meet the needs of the children and purpose of the setting, and training them up-to-date with professional, legal and practice development and reflects the policies, legal obligations and business needs of the home. In particular child protection procedures (NMS 18.1)
- ensure child's Placement Plan is monitored by a key worker within the home who ensures that the requirements of the plan are implemented in the day-day care of that child. In particular that direct work is undertaken in all areas identified including behaviour (NMS 25.2)
- ensure young people are helped by staff to achieve their educational or training goals. This includes providing support, facilities and opportunities as needed. staff work with a child's education provider to maximise each child's achievement and to minimise any underachievement. In particular, that all young people attend and access education. (NMS 8.4)

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*.