

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC037762
Inspection date	14/01/2014
Inspector	David Coulter
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	22/04/2013
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Service information

Brief description of the service

This is a purpose-built children's home run by the local authority that operates as a reception and assessment centre. The home is registered to accommodate seven young people of either gender between the ages of 12 and 17 years.

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**.

The home has experienced a number of significant changes since the key inspection. The composition of the resident group has changed and staff are now providing care and accommodation for a group of residents the majority of whom are aged over 16. A number of the current residents have histories of placement breakdowns in both fostering and residential settings. The home is providing a safe environment for young people who experience significant social and emotional difficulties that frequently manifest themselves in challenging and self-destructive behaviours. The home operates within a set of clear behavioural boundaries that are consistently applied. Staff have established good relationships with young people and work alongside them to address personal difficulties.

Members of the experienced staff team are aspirational for all the young people in their care and those individuals who arrive without an educational or training placement are helped to access one. Young people are encouraged to develop their interests and hobbies. For example one young person has recently successfully completed a football refereeing course. Aware that the majority of young people

wish to move on to semi-independent or supported living placements, staff have introduced an 'independence skills programme'. The programme aims to ensure that young people will, before they leave, acquire a number of key life-skills that will enable them make successful transitions to more independent settings.

Staff have been successful in helping young people develop strategies to keep themselves safe. Staff are pro-active in determining where young people go and with whom they are associating in the local community. Staff reported that young people are normally good at maintaining phone contact and will inform them if they are going to be returning to the home later than planned. Staff have established extremely good relationships with a number of agencies in the local community, including the police, in order to ensure that young people are engaging in activities that are putting them at risk. A number of the current residents are regular users of cannabis and staff have brought in both the police and members of the drug awareness team to raise their awareness of both the legal consequences and health risks associated with its use. Although staff have requested the police to carry out drug searches of the home, these have not been reported as significant incidents.

Staff are clearly conversant with the care needs of all six residents and were able to provide recent examples of the progress each was making. It is evident they are successfully working alongside young people to help them manage their emotions and channel their energies into positive activities rather than destructive behaviours, such as damaging the fabric of the home. While the change in the age profile of the resident group has clearly required staff to respond to a different set of needs, they have continued to provide consistently good quality care within a safe environment. Short and long term goals are developed in respect of each young person and when appropriate, work is undertaken with parents in an attempt to resolve relationship difficulties. Staff liaise effectively with young people's social workers and keep them regularly informed of all developments.

The one recommendation arising out of the last inspection regarding the homes statement of purpose has been appropriately addressed and it now reflects its current aims and objectives. There is one action arising from the inspection that relates to the reporting of significant events.

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
30 (2001)	ensure all significant events relating to the protection of children accommodated in the home are notified by the registered person of the home to the appropriate authorities	28/02/2014

	(Reg 30 Schedule 5).	
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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*.