

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC038780
Inspection date	28/02/2012
Inspector	Elizabeth Tanner
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	11/10/2011
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Service information

Brief description of the service

The home is operated by a private company and provides care for up to four young people aged between 10 years and 17 years old. The home is registered to provide care for 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 **inadequate** progress.

At the last inspection in October 2011 this children's home was judged as good with two recommendations for improvement. The finding from this interim inspection is that the home has made inadequate progress. The quality of care has not been maintained and the outcomes for young people have declined. As a result of this inspection, two requirements have been set and two recommendations from the last inspection restated.

Young people say they enjoy living in this home and they feel safe here. They benefit from healthy food and are encouraged to think about making healthy lifestyle choices. Young people participate in young people's meetings and contribute to decisions about activities and menus. However the home has not made progress in a number of areas that impact on the welfare of the young people. For example, young people are not engaging in education or work experience. Incidents of criminal activity are increasing.

The home has failed to make sufficient progress with the two recommendations

made at the full inspection. Although the Registered Manager drew up a development plan in December 2011, the document is not sufficiently robust or detailed to promote improvement in the home. The recording in respect of education in the young people's files is still not up to date and progress is not reviewed at regular intervals. This leads to a lack of focus and urgency in respect of educational provision for young people. Young people do not have access to a telephone in the home that can be accessed without reference to staff on duty. This means that young people may lack opportunity to contact significant people or agencies in a timely manner and this could impact on their safety.

The Registered Manager undertakes regular monitoring of the quality of the care provided in the home. Both this monitoring and the monitoring undertaken by the Regulation 33 visitor are not sufficiently probing of practice and are not used to identify any patterns of behaviours or shortfalls that are emerging. The voice of the young people is not routinely heard in these reports. Because of this, the monitoring and improvement of positive outcomes for young people is not as effective as it could be. The reports completed by the Registered Manager have not been sent to Ofsted as is required.

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
15 (2001)	ensure that children accommodated in the home are provided at all reasonable times with a telephone on which to make and receive telephone calls in private without reference to persons working in the home (Regulation 15(4))	29/03/2012
34 (2001)	supply to the HMCI a report in respect of any monitoring and improving the quality of care provided in the children's home. (Regulation 34 (2))	29/03/2012

Recommendations

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

- ensure that young people are helped by staff to achieve their educational or training goals; particularly in relation to providing evidence within documentation (NMS 8.4)
- ensure that the registered person has a written development plan. (NMS 15.2)

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)*.