

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	14/02/2014
Inspector	Sarah Oldham
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	01/11/2013
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Service information

Brief description of the service

This service is a local authority children's home. The home provides care and accommodation for six young people who have emotional and/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 **good progress**.

At the last full inspection of this service in November 2013, the overall effectiveness was judged to be good. Since that inspection, the home has made good progress.

The manager has taken appropriate action to ensure that the recommendation made in relation to encouraging young people to read and sign their placement plans has been met. Young people say that they are fully consulted about their care through regular discussions with their key worker and other staff. One young person said 'this is the first place I have lived in that really wants to get to me and support me. This home is excellent.' Another young person said, 'staff involve me with all areas of my care and speak to me about what I want to happen.' Through effective communication and discussion, young people know and are fully included in the development of their individual plans and contribute their views to how the home operates.

Young people have continued to make good progress. This includes improvement in behaviours through being effectively supported to understand how to make sense of their emotions and to manage conflict in an appropriate way. They are continuing to

be supported well with their education. School placements are actively sought when a young person moves to the home and education is undertaken within the home whilst school placements are arranged. This ensures that young people are supported to achieve good educational outcomes. They continue to be encouraged to lead healthy and active lifestyles and receive appropriate support and guidance in relation to smoking cessation and the impact that this can have on their health. They take part in a range of activities that they enjoy and that promote their health and development. They say that they have very positive relationships with the staff and feel safe and happy living at the home.

The quality of care remains good. Young people benefit from being cared for by an established and consistent staff team who demonstrate an in-depth knowledge of the individual young people and their needs. Staff benefit from regular training and development opportunities; this enables them to keep their practice and knowledge up-to-date in order to provide effective support to young people. The vast majority of individual placement plans for young people are comprehensive and are reviewed on a monthly basis. This enables staff and young people to reflect on any progress they have made and to plan areas for on-going support. However, at the time of this inspection, one placement plan had not been fully recorded and although staff were able to demonstrate a good knowledge of the young person's needs and the objectives of the placement the written document had not been updated to clearly reflect this. This could impact on the overall outcomes for this young person. This was being addressed by key worker staff.

The home continues to be managed effectively. The manager provides good leadership to the team and works closely with the home's deputy managers to ensure that the care and wellbeing of young people is closely monitored. Staff say that they feel exceptionally well supported within their role and have regular supervision on a formal basis as well as through staff meetings, daily handover meetings and informal support.

One recommendation has been made as a result of this inspection. This is in relation to ensuring that all placement plans for children and young people are updated on a regular basis to reflect accurately, their current needs.

Areas for improvement

Recommendations

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

- ensure that each 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-to-day care of that child. This is specifically in relation to updating the care plan with current information (NMS 25.2).

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*.