

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC045408
Inspection date	13/03/2013
Inspector	Gavin Thomas
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	16/05/2012
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Service information

Brief description of the service

This local authority managed children's home is registered for two young people of either gender. Most young people have planned admissions but the home does accept crisis placements.

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 full inspection of this home was undertaken on the 16 May 2012 at which time the overall effectiveness was judged as 'good'. One recommendation was made at the full inspection which was to retain copies of written consents for medical treatments. This recommendation is met and copies of these consents are now retained on young people's files.

Extensive work has been carried out on the premises since the last inspection. A dedicated staff sleeping-in room is now provided with an additional sleeping-in bed situated in the office. Other improvements include a lockable cupboard for the storage of confidential records and staff lockers. Young people were accommodated in another of the local authority's registered children's homes for approximately three months to allow building works to take place. Work is still being done to rectify some snagging issues such as the computer system a, a faulty kitchen tap and the water pressure into the staff shower. Overall however, staff and young people are pleased with the newly refurbished house. Young people coped extremely well when the home was being refurbished; transitional work was risk assessed and carefully

planned to avoid too much disruption to young people's routines.

Great emphasis is placed on placements sustainability and currently staff are working extensively with young people in supporting them to keep themselves safe when in the community. This is not always straightforward but staffs' persistent approach has seen some improvement in young people's behaviour although this fluctuates. Young people's safeguarding arrangements are monitored by the person undertaking monthly visits to the home. Reports for these visits include detailed information about episodes of young people missing from the home and the actions being taken to address and help resolve these issues. Observations from this inspection demonstrate how staff speak openly and frankly with young people about arrangements for staying away from the home and the importance of keeping in touch at all times.

One fire drill has taken place to date for this calendar year. Records of fire drills are kept but the most recent record does not include: the time of drill, the length of time it took to evacuate the premises and clear details of who took part in the drill. This lack of recording does not make it possible to fully evaluate the effectiveness of fire drills. Electrical trailing sockets are in use throughout the home including young people's bedrooms. For example, one trailing socket is currently positioned on a young person's headboard. Wall sockets are provided and the young person gave assurance that this is switched off at night. However, the practical use of these trailing sockets should be risk assessed for ensuring maximum safety at all times.

At the time of this inspection, the lounge door leading into the hallway was propped open with a chair. Staff advised that this enabled them to supervise a young person remotely from another room because of the various activities taking place at that time. Discussions are underway about a suitable self-closing mechanism but the arrangements at the time would have prevented the door from shutting tight in the event of a fire.

The home has been without a Registered Manager since September 2012. The deputy manager is currently appointed as acting manager and the local authority is in the process of finalising arrangements to recruit a Registered Manager. Staff report that they are well supported by the current management arrangements.

One requirement and two recommendations are made as a result of this inspection. These are in relation to health and safety matters.

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
32 (2001)	take adequate precautions against the risk of fire by providing adequate means of escape. In particular, review the arrangements for propping open the lounge door with a chair. (Reg 32 (1)(a)(b))	30/04/2013

Recommendations

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

- risk assess the use and safety of electrical trailing sockets in particular those used by young people in their bedrooms (NMS 10.8)
- update the record of fire drills to include: the time of the drill, the length of time it took to evacuate the premises and more precise information about all those attending the drill. (NMS 22.4)

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*.