

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC047483
Inspection date	10/02/2014
Inspector	Jo Stephenson
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	16/05/2013
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Service information

Brief description of the service

This privately owned children's home is registered to provide care and accommodation for up to two 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 **inadequate progress**.

The judgement at the last full inspection in May 2013 was good. The service has addressed the two recommendations made at the full inspection. The Registered Manager now ensures that all necessary information pertaining to staff working in the home is retained on file. Furthermore, the rota in the home now demonstrates that experienced and qualified staff are responsible for leading each shift. However, progress since the last inspection is inadequate. The quality of care for young people has not been maintained, and outcomes for young people have declined. As a result of this inspection six requirements have been made.

The Registered Manager has failed to ensure that compatibility risk assessments are completed when young people are admitted to the home. Assessments records in place list the known behaviours of young people. However, these do not consider the potentially negative impact these behaviours may have on other young people. This means that the suitability of each placement is not effectively evaluated prior to every admission. This impacts negatively on the safety of young people. Subsequently, staff are unable to ascertain if young people may require additional

support or interventions when new young people move into the home. As a result the home does not make suitable provision for the safeguarding and welfare of young people.

The routine of the home does not ensure that all young people are engaged in education. Where young people are without school placements, a lack of structured activities during the school day means that young people are unoccupied. As a result, young people are not encouraged or enabled to further their education or reach their full potential. This results in the outcomes for young people being negatively affected. The Registered Manager does not work collaboratively with the placing authorities to identify suitable educational placements for young people.

Staff do not ensure that medications prescribed to young people are safely administered and recorded. For example, medication prescribed for one young person was purposely administered to another young person. This means that current medication administration systems place young people at risk of significant harm. As a result, the health, safety and welfare of young people are not appropriately promoted. Furthermore, medication administration recording systems are ineffectual. Staff do not complete administration records correctly and medication audit counts are inaccurate. At the time of this inspection controlled medication was missing from the home.

The Registered Manager does not provide staff with regular supervision. For example, new employees have not received fortnightly formal supervision in line with the policies of the home. Induction programmes for new staff are not in place to confirm the knowledge and skills of these staff. In addition, supervision records lack detail. This means that the performance and practice of staff is not effectively monitored. Subsequently, the Registered Manager is unable to ascertain the ability of staff to meet the individual needs of young people. As a result, the welfare and safety of young people are not promoted. Furthermore, all staff have not completed mandatory training. Recently recruited staff have yet to undertake training in safeguarding or physical intervention. This means that staff do not have the knowledge or skills to meet the needs of young people and this places young people at risk of harm.

Young people's case files are not up to date. Staff do not amend internal plans following statutory reviews and decisions made at statutory reviews are not assimilated into internal plans. This means that young people do not benefit from an integrated or comprehensive approach to meeting their needs. In addition, internal risk assessments to promote the safety and welfare of young people are not appropriately reviewed. For example, risk assessments are not amended following incidents of negative behaviours to identify alternative strategies to support young people. This means that young people do not receive personalised care that reflects their needs because their case files are not updated.

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
11 (2001)	ensure that the children's home is conducted so as to promote and make proper provision for the safeguarding and welfare of children accommodated there (Regulation 11(1)(a))	12/03/2014
18 (2001)	promote the educational achievement of children accommodated in a children's home, in particular by ensuring that the children make proper use of educational facilities; and the routine of the home is organised so as to further children participating in education, including regular attendance at school (Regulation 18(1)(a)(b))	12/03/2014
21 (2001)	make suitable arrangements for the recording, handling, safekeeping, safe administration and disposal of any medicines received into the children's home (Regulation 21(1))	12/03/2014
21 (2001)	ensure that any medicine which is prescribed for a child is administered as prescribed, to the child whom it is prescribed, and to no other child; and a written record is kept of the administration of any medicine to any child (Regulation 21(2)(b)(c))	12/03/2014
27 (2001)	ensure that all persons employed by him receive appropriate training, supervision and appraisal (Regulation 27(4)(a))	12/03/2014
28 (2001)	maintain in respect of each child who is accommodated in a children's home a record in permanent form which is kept up to date; and is signed and dated by the author of each written entry. (Regulation 28(1)(b)(c))	12/03/2014

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*.