

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	29/01/2014
Inspector	Alicea Churchward
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	27/06/2013
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Service information

Brief description of the service

This service provides residential accommodation for up to five looked after young people, all with complex emotional and behavioural needs. The home is owned by a private company.

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**.

The purpose of this visit is to assess the progress made since the time of the last inspection and how any progress has improved the quality of care and outcomes for young people. The last full inspection was undertaken in June 2013; the home was then found to be good. At that time, the provider and Registered Manager were asked to take account of requirements and recommendations to improve further the quality of care in the home.

The home benefits from a suitably qualified and experienced Registered Manager who provides clear leadership to the staff team. There is a detailed action plan in place to address all aspects of the home's functioning and development. Monitoring is good and the format for independent visits to the home has been revised by the Registered Manager to provide better qualitative detail in the reports of these visits.

Since that time all staff have had training in safeguarding young people including the organisation's whistleblowing procedures; this is important because all staff need to know how to report any concerns appropriately to ensure the safety of young people.

Staff have also undertaken training in Health and Safety matters including the need to undertake and understand risk assessments in relation to the work they perform; this enhances the safety of staff especially when undertaking maintenance in the home.

The Registered Manager conducts detailed audits of the staff recruitment files to ensure they fully comply with regulatory requirements; this is important to make sure young people are cared for by adults who have had all of the required checks to prevent unsuitable people from having the opportunity to work in the home.

Documentary shortfalls found at the time of the last inspection have been addressed these include revising the Statement of Purpose and children's guide also the home has a parent's guide; these now fully reflect the organisation's arrangements for dealing with complaints so that parents are clear about who they can complain to.

The overall presentation of the home is good. Since the time of the last inspection numbers have been removed from young people's bedroom doors, a distinguishing sign has been removed from the front of the home and areas of the home have been re-decorated. Young people's rooms are clean, tidy and personalised. Shortfalls identified at this inspection include some broken tiles in the bath and shower rooms and the bath side panel is loose and cracked.

Placement plans have improved and give good detail to staff about the day to day arrangements for individual young people; they now include clear contact details and risk assessments.

The Registered Manager has addressed all of the requirements and recommendations. The home has demonstrated continued improvement in quality of care and outcomes for young people and as a result is judged to be making good progress.

Areas for improvement

Recommendations

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

- continue to ensure that the home is well maintained by replacing the broken floor tiles in the bath and shower rooms and replacement of the loose, cracked bath panel (NMS 10.3)

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*.