

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	04/11/2013
Inspector	Ann-Marie Born
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	09/05/2013
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Service information

Brief description of the service

The children's home is provided by a private company and cares for up to six children and young people with emotional and behavioural difficulties. Most children and young people are cared for in the main house but one child is also cared for in a detached bungalow situated in the rear garden.

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**.

This home was judged as adequate at the previous full inspection in May 2013. Following this interim inspection this home is judged to be making satisfactory progress. The home has addressed the two requirements and two recommendations made following the previous inspection and has therefore demonstrated the capacity to improve. This inspection identifies a further requirement and one recommendation both relating to the quality of the internal monitoring processes.

Better quality procedures and planning ensure that staff members receive formal supervision at appropriate intervals. Members of staff report very positively about the timeliness and quality of supervision they receive. As a result, staff development and practice are regularly reviewed and they are confident to raise any concerns or training needs thereby improving the quality of care for children and young people.

The home's office space has been re-organised and now provides lockable storage cabinets which contain all confidential staff records and files. Members of staff report

very positively about the timeliness and quality of supervision they receive. As a result, staff development and practice are regularly reviewed. Staff are confident to raise any concerns or training needs thereby improving the quality of care for children and young people.

Professionals report very positively about the improved care in the home; which results in some good outcomes for children and young people. A therapist stated that: 'the home is significantly improved and staff know and work with a particular young person well. The vigilance around the young person is good and the knowledge and understanding of him is much better.'

The majority of children and young people are new to the home since the last inspection. Nevertheless, children and young people are settled and in the process of forming sustainable attachments with staff and with each other. Most placements are planned with a formal introduction process enabling children and young people to begin to form positive relationships before they move in. A social worker commented, 'he was able to have a planned move here and that has made a big difference for him. As starts go; it's a good start.'

Children and young people further benefit from the proactive approach to obtain independent advocates for young people if they want their involvement. Children and young people report how happy they are in the home and that they feel listened to. A young person said, 'you just ask (the manager) and if she can get it for you she will'. As a result children and young people's self-esteem and sense of belonging are enhanced.

The removal of the smoking paraphernalia from outside the back door of the home has not only improved the look of the building but contributes to improved health outcomes for young people. In addition, information about the dangers of smoking and where to get help to stop smoking are readily available for young people. This enhances young people's knowledge and well-being.

Ofsted are now being notified of all significant events within regulatory timeframes. This provides a multi- agency approach to the safeguarding of children and young people as it allows for the effective external monitoring of the service.

Children and young people are actively involved in developing their care plans, preparation of risk assessments and planning for reviews. This builds self-esteem, feelings of self-worth and confidence in their abilities to negotiate. However, neither young people's views on their care, or those of their parents or professionals, are captured or used as part of the manager's monitoring processes. It is therefore not clear how these influence the development of the home.

The manager maintains quality assurance systems which capture the matters required by Regulations; however these do not provide comprehensive monitoring of all of the care provided or systems in the home. Therefore, although they are not detrimental to young people's care, the current monitoring processes are not

effective in improving the quality of care in the home or establishing any areas for development.

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
34 (2001)	ensure that the system established for monitoring the quality of care in the home improves the quality of care children receive and incorporates the views of children accommodated in the home, their parents and placing authorities. (Regulation 34 (1) (b) (3))	17/01/2014

Recommendations

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

- ensure that all records kept by the home are regularly monitored to ensure compliance with the home's policies, to identify any concerns about specific incidents and to identify any patterns and trends. (NMS 21.2)

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*.