

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC061232
Inspection date	09/01/2013
Inspector	Peter Harrell
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	01/08/2012
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Service information

Brief description of the service

This home provides care and accommodation for up to five young people who may have emotional or behavioural difficulties. The home is managed by the local authority.

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 inspection the home was judged to be good overall with two requirements and one recommendation for improvement being made.

At this inspection, the Registered Manager and staff team demonstrate a continued commitment to improving the quality of care and achieving positive outcomes for young people. Young people continue to progress well and achieve individual goals. Managers are evaluating and enhancing the current level of service. As a consequence of this interim inspection, one recommendation for improvement is raised.

Since the last inspection, the Registered Manager ensures that there is 'zero tolerance' to staff smoking alongside young people. Staff who do smoke are now better role models. They now take planned breaks and smoke at a distance where they cannot be seen by young people. The care of young people is not compromised.

There has been a focus on improving health outcomes for young people. Young people are now better informed about the risks to health associated with smoking

through being given information and advice regarding the risks. Information regarding smoking cessation is on display at the home and 'quit packs' are available to young people. The local authority's looked after children's nurse is also available to provide advice.

The health needs of young people are better safeguarded due more staff having completed a programme of first aid training. At least one member of staff on each shift is now trained to administer first aid to young people in an emergency. In addition, several staff members are now booked on refresher training in this area of care.

Young people demonstrate that they are provided with a range of choices and actively participate and feedback their views and feelings to their key workers. However, records of key work sessions do not always describe this level of participation in detail, and they are not always signed by the young people to show their agreement.

Young people speak positively about the care they receive and say they can raise any issues of concern with members of staff. The rapport between managers, staff and young people is one which is both nurturing and respectful. Staff are genuinely enthusiastic about their care of young people and there is a clear commitment to provide a high quality service. The management team communicate high expectations to staff.

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 young people are actively encouraged to read their files and sign their records, correct errors and add personal statements (NMS 22.5).

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*.