

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC061678
Inspection date	17/01/2014
Inspector	Marian Denny
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	21/05/2013
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Service information

Brief description of the service

The home provides care for four young people with emotional and behavioural difficulties. The home is one of four owned and managed by a limited 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 home was last inspected Tuesday 21 May 2013. The service was judged as good. Following the inspection two requirements were made which related to medication records and the second related to each young person having an up-to-date health plan. In addition, four recommendations were made which related to ensuring the Statement of Purpose demonstrated how the service meets the outcomes for young people, in particular information regarding the missing from home procedures and the home's dog. Key Pads were used on the bedroom doors and this was seen to detract from the homely environment. There were also some issues relating to the decoration and maintenance of the home, specifically in relation to top floor bannister rail and the décor in the hallway. A recommendation was also made in relation to quality assuring records, specifically the sanction records, risk assessments and missing from home assessments. During this inspection, it was ascertained that all the requirements and recommendations that had been made had been addressed.

Since the last inspection, the Registered Manager has left. Another member of staff has been appointed to the post and an application has been made to Ofsted for this person to register as a manager.

A young person has recently been admitted to this home. Consequently, staff are only just beginning to get to know him and gain a fuller understanding of his needs. It is therefore too early to make any judgement in respect of the outcomes achieved for this young person. However, it is clear that young people benefit from good quality of care provided in this home. Some of the young people have lived in this home for some time. Consequently, staff know them very well and their individual needs are clearly detailed and consistently met. They have good educational attendance and are making good educational progress, as demonstrated by their many certificates of achievement. Young people spoken with indicated that they were happy, settled and making good progress since living in the home.

Young people are central to the development of the home. Regular consultation takes place with young people deciding the décor of the home, including their bedrooms and the communal areas. Young people's suggestions regarding new music, computer games and sports equipment is listened to and these items obtained.

Young people benefit from clear and structured routines enabling them to understand the plans for each day. They participate in a range of regular planned and unplanned activities, such as snooker and football. Staff have a good rapport with the young people and enjoy very positive and constructive relationships with them. Consequently, young people listen to staff and will usually follow their advice and guidance. This ensures young people progress in all areas of their life and maximises their life chances. Young people were clearly very relaxed and happy in this home and said it was a good place to live.

The home has a highly committed, knowledgeable and enthusiastic staff team. Staff demonstrate a clear commitment to supporting young people to reach their goals and create positive opportunities to enable young people to achieve good outcomes.

The service is consistently monitored, meeting the requirements of Regulation 33 and 34. It is clear that the acting manager and staff work closely together to maintain high standards of care, as demonstrated by the good outcomes achieved by some young people.

Areas for improvement

Recommendations

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

- ensure the children's guide lets young people know how they can contact their independent reviewing officer, if they wish to raise a concern. (NMS 13.5)

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*.