

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC061678
Inspection date	21/01/2013
Inspector	Chris Scully
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	20/07/2012
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Service information

Brief description of the service

The home provides care for three young people with emotional and behavioural difficulties aged from 12 to 17 years. The home is 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 20 July 2012. The overall effectiveness was judged to be good with outstanding elements. Following the inspection one statutory requirement pertaining to notifications to Ofsted was raised. In addition four recommendations relating to missing from care protocols and risk assessments, general risk assessment and signage around the home were also issued.

The home ensures all appropriate persons are informed of any significant events in particularly Ofsted. This has improved transparency and demonstrates how the home is supporting young people to overcome the difficulties they are experiencing at that time.

Young people's safety and well-being is enhanced as the missing from care procedure is compatible with the Runaway and Missing from Care protocols. The procedure is understood by staff which means they are able to take swift appropriate action should a young person be missing. Consequently, young people are quickly located and are able to return home safe and well.

Young people's safety is further enhanced by the detailed missing from care risk assessments, which provide valuable insight into each young person's diverse needs and vulnerabilities. Staff are proactive in helping young people reduce the incidents of them being missing. They are aware of the triggers for young people and offer additional support as required. This means young people are infrequently reported as missing from care.

Young people's general risk assessments are more comprehensive. Risk assessments clearly demonstrate the potential risks to their safety, such as using recreational drugs and how the home is working with them to reduce or eliminate the risks. Their safety is further enhanced by staff's innate understanding of their individual needs. As a result staff are able to respond quickly and sensitively to young people's ever changing needs such as their increased independence.

Young people live in a warm, welcoming, homely environment. This has been further enhanced by the removal of any unnecessary signage from around the home.

Monitoring of the home is robust and enables the Registered Manager to continue to drive forward improvements within the home, such as revising the format for staff supervision and considering additional training opportunities for staff. The home is monitored by a representative of the organisation on a monthly basis. Reports of the visit are clear and highlight any shortfalls. The Registered Manager monitors documentation on a monthly basis and takes effective action to address any issues raised.

Records and documentation are well maintained and provide insight into each young person's life at the home. The Statement of Purpose is reviewed on a regular basis. However, information pertaining to the missing from care procedure and the homes pet dog is not currently included in the Statement of Purpose. This is an oversight and does not impact upon the care provided to young people. Although it means interested parties may not be aware the home has a dog or the action they will take should a young person be missing. Consultation with young people is effective. They continue to have a say into how the home is run. This includes deciding on the activities provided, such as going to watch their favourite football team or go karting and meals.

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 aims and objectives of the Statement of Purpose show how the service will meet the outcomes for young people in particular information regarding the missing from care procedures and the homes pet dog. (NMS 13.2)

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*.