

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC061878
Inspection date	02/02/2012
Inspector	Peter Harrell
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	07/07/2011
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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 (March 2011)*.

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.

Service information

Brief description of the service

The home is one of a number of children's services operated by the provider. The home is a six-bedroom detached house in its own grounds. The service was registered in November 2004 as a children's home for four young people with emotional or behavioural problems.

Progress

Since their previous inspection the service is judged to be making **good** progress.

At the last inspection the overall quality rating for the service was judged as good. There were two requirements and three recommendations made. The home has appropriately addressed these requirements and two out of three recommendations.

The relationship between the staff and the young people is a major strength of the home. Young people's welfare is enhanced by good relationships which exist between staff and young people. Young people benefit from individual placement plans; however these have not been signed by the relevant people.

Most young people speak positively regarding the care they receive. There are several complimentary comments from child care professionals, for example a social worker for a young person who has recently left the home said 'the home is brilliant in working with us and working with young people, I have nothing but praise for every member of staff, fantastic communication, really positive outcomes'. A team manager for a placing local authority also said 'there was quite a homely feel, regular updates, no concerns regarding safeguarding' and she was 'very happy to place another child there'. Young people say they are safe at the home, one young person said 'I absolutely love it here' and gave the home '10 out of 10'.

The home was asked to improve the monitoring systems of the service. There are now comprehensive records of regular monitoring visits. Regulation 34 reports include an overview of the records of the home. In order to continue to monitor young people and the home's progress, a requirement is made that these reports are periodically submitted to Ofsted. A safeguarding incident, involving a young person, was swiftly and appropriately acted upon by management at the home and is clearly documented in the home's records; however the final outcome of these matters is not recorded next to the original notifications.

A permanent staff team has been appointed, new members of staff receive an induction programme during their probationary period and staff receive training and regular supervision to enable them to provide safe, good quality and reflective care for young people. This results in the behaviour of young people being better understood and managed well.

The current Registered Manager is on maternity leave; in order to ensure a continuity of service the deputy manager is managing the home. The manager designate is enthusiastic about improving the quality of care of the service as well as young people's outcomes. The wider organisation is also working toward this aim as well as ensuring that there is a stable and suitably qualified and vetted staff team.

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 home supplies to Ofsted a report in respect of any review conducted (Regulation 34 (1)(a))	30/04/2012

Recommendations

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

- ensure a written record is kept which includes details of action taken following a notifiable incident (NMS 24(2))
- ensure that each child's placement plan is signed by the appropriate people. (NMS 25).