

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	14/01/2013
Inspector	Chris Scully
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	09/07/2012
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Service information

Brief description of the service

The home offers care and accommodation for up to four young people with emotional or behavioural difficulties. The home is one of several owned by a private 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 **satisfactory progress**.

The home was last inspected in July 2012. The overall effectiveness of the home was judged to be good. Following the visit, two statutory requirements relating to medication and the Statement of Purpose were raised. In addition three recommendations were raised pertaining to missing from care risk assessments, health care plans and risk assessments.

Young people's health and well-being is enhanced because of the improved systems for the administration and recording of medication. The recently re-designed medication forms clearly show the amount of medication administered to young people. They now provide a clear audit trail for staff and demonstrate that young people receive their medication at the right time. Medications which are no longer required are safely disposed of by a pharmacist. Additional medication checks at the start of each shift minimise the potential for inconsistencies in the amount of medication in stock.

Health care plans clearly detail young people's current and past health care needs as

well as any medication they are taking at this time. Staff are aware of their content and of the action needed to support young people. Consequently, the home has improved the outcomes for young people with regards to their healthcare needs.

Staff are proactive in talking to young people about their health, for example, encouraging them to have their immunisations and health checks. Young people confidently discuss any health care issues with staff and ask to see a doctor or other health care professional when necessary.

The Statement of Purpose provides insight into the type of care and support offered. This is because it is reviewed every three months and an amended version is sent to Ofsted within the prescribed timescales. Updated copies of the Statement of Purpose are also shared with placing authorities and other interested parties.

Young people occasionally go missing but when they do, they usually return quickly. This is because of the appropriate missing from care risk assessments which provide an understanding of the young person's behaviours and where they may be. Practice is further enhanced by the introduction of the child sexual exploitation risk assessments. This provides greater insight into the risks associated with some young people. The Registered Manager states this has been positive for staff as the information has enabled them to consider any additional risks posed to young people should they be missing from care.

Records and documentation are appropriately maintained and monitored by the Registered Manager. A number of documents have recently been revised to streamline the recording systems. Consequently, the potential for conflicting information in documentation has been minimised. For example, health care plans are now contained within the placement plan. Risk assessments now correlate with the information within the placement plan ensuring consistent care and messages are given.

Quality assurance monitoring of the home is appropriate. The home's practice is monitored by a representative of the organisation on a monthly basis. Reports of the visit are clear and highlight any shortfalls. However, it is not always clear if family members or social workers have been consulted on the quality of care provided. It is therefore not clear how their views influence the improvement and development of the home.

The Registered Manager monitors documentation on a monthly basis and takes appropriate action to address any issues raised. New staff have recently joined the team. While they are experienced in this field they do not hold an appropriate qualification and have not commenced one within six months of commencing employment. This is partially compensated for by the experience and knowledge gained through working in other homes within the organisation, which equips with the skills to work with the level of needs currently presented.

Young people enjoy positive relationships with staff and remain happy and settled in the home. They are keen to speak to visitors and talk to them about what is going

well for them. Young people have high aspirations for their education and what they would like to do when they leave school. They are in consultation with staff regarding current school placements and what they feel would work better for them.

Young people are confident to negotiate incentives for promoting positive behaviour. They discuss the terms with staff in a mature manner and add their own additional clauses, which they feel will help them to achieve their desired outcome.

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 visit of the home carried out under Regulation 33 include the relevant checks set out in regulations and guidance. In particular ensure that the young peoples families and social workers are consulted (NMS 21.7)
- ensure all staff employed after April 2011 hold the level 3 Children & Young Peoples Workforce Diploma which includes the mandatory social care units or be working towards the Diploma within six months of conformation of employment. (NMS 18.5)

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*.