

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC062931
Inspection date	07/01/2014
Inspector	Anna Williams
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	06/08/2013
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Service information

Brief description of the service

This home is run by a private organisation. It provides care for no more than three young people with emotional and behavioural difficulties.

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**.

At the last full inspection in August 2013 this home was judged to be good overall. Since then the home has maintained outstanding outcomes for young people and overall progress has been satisfactory. The three recommendations set at the last inspection have been met or addressed. There is one requirement and two recommendations arising from this visit.

Young people benefit from staff who have now undertaken training around child sexual exploitation. This knowledge has been shared with the whole staff team. This ensures young people are cared for by staff who have specialist training to meet young people's unique needs.

Incidents of physical intervention are now accurately and consistently recorded within house documents. This ensures that the Registered Manager can monitor and evaluate each incident more effectively to ensure the use of restraint is reasonable and proportionate.

A previous recommendation to encourage young people to sign their key working

sessions has been carefully considered by the provider organisation. They have decided that due to the sensitive nature of some individual key working records, they will remain separate and unsigned by young people. However, the home promotes the voice of young people in a number of other ways. Young people scribe their daily children's meetings minutes. These capture their personal feelings about their day, and their comments and requests for the home. Young people also sign and remark on their placement plan, health care plan and key worker action plan. This allows young people opportunity to comment on their care.

Since the last inspection there have been some significant events relating to the welfare of young people in the home. The Registered Manager has notified Ofsted of some, but not all of these events. This has compromised the ability of Ofsted to carry out its duty as a regulator to ensure actions taken by the home are safeguarding young people.

One of these notifications related to an allegation about a member of staff. This information was not shared with the Local Authority Designated Officer but dealt with as a complaint. This was immediately actioned by the Registered Manager during the inspection. Although, the allegation was low-key with minimal impact on young people, the Registered Manager had not shared this concern in line with the Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB) procedures to ensure patterns and trends are appropriately collated.

The organisation's current child protection and safeguarding policy refers to LCSB procedures dated 2007 (which were updated in 2012) and further outdated guidance. This means staff are following a procedure that does not reflect the most up-to-date and current child protection guidance.

Young people are positive about living in the home. They identify staff whom they would talk to if they are worried or upset by something. Young people continue to achieve outstanding outcomes. Young people in the home historically have not attended school settings, and some have missed out on significant periods of schooling. However, since placement at the home all young people have successfully transitioned from part-time to full-time attendance at school. The educational achievements of young people are significant. Certificates are on display to celebrate their successes. Young people have committed to after-school rehearsals and have taken part in end-of-year assemblies. This demonstrates a pledge to be part of the school community and builds individual self-esteem.

All the young people have benefited from holidays away from the home. These include trips both abroad and within the United Kingdom. These offer young people varied life experiences and adventures with other young people. This promotes young people's personal and social development. Some young people have been sensitively supported to successfully re-engage in contact with family members. Other young people continue regular and well-planned contact with siblings. This enables young people to maintain appropriate attachments with those important to them.

Young people all engage in an extensive range of activities and community based clubs. These include trampolining, horse riding, swimming, gym, local walks and community events. This supports young people in developing purposeful interests and hobbies outside of the home. Some young people have stopped smoking and other risk-taking behaviours, such as going missing, since living in the home. This considerably benefits their health and well-being now and in the future.

Young people live in a house that provides an excellent standard of accommodation. Improvements to the home since the last inspection include new outdoor benches and planters. These enhance the outside space. Young people are positively involved in the redecoration of rooms and spaces, such as the diversity board. This provides a focus for debate and reflection on themes such as religious celebrations, and learning about different countries. Photo boards around the home allow young people to reflect on activities and recall special events which have taken place in the home.

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
30 (2001)	ensure that if, in relation to the children's home, any of the events listed in column 1 of the table in Schedule 5 takes place, the registered person shall without delay notify the persons indicated in respect of the event in column 2 of the table. (Regulation 30 (1))	31/03/2014

Recommendations

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

- submit the provider's child protection procedures for consideration and comment to the Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB) and to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) and ensure they are consistent with the local policies and procedures agreed by the LSCB relevant to the geographical area of the home (NMS 20.4)
- ensure all allegations against people that work with children are reported by the designated person to the LADO. This includes allegations that on the face of it may appear relatively insignificant. (NMS 20.6)

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*.