

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	25/03/2013
Inspector	Maria McGranaghan
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	16/11/2012
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Service information

Brief description of the service

This is a children's home for up to three young people with emotional or behavioural difficulties or learning disabilities. The home is managed 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 purpose of this visit is to assess the progress made since the last inspection and how any progress has improved the quality of care and potential outcomes for young people.

At the last inspection on 16 November 2012, the home was judged as good. At the time the manager was asked to take account of two requirements and three recommendations made to further improve the quality of care in the home. The service is judged to have made satisfactory progress.

Young people who make a complaint now have the information fully recorded in a way which is helpful to them. Likewise, records of complaints are now reviewed within the Regulation 33 monitoring reports and this provides a simple audit trail of complaint outcomes. Consequently, records now provide the appropriate information in respect of complaints made in the home.

Independence training programmes are further improved. Key-worker sessions take place to assist young people to understand what constitutes a healthy balanced diet.

Likewise, young people are encouraged to plan and prepare their own meals from fresh ingredients. This is now supported by staff who provide fresh fruit, vegetables and salad at all meal times. As a result, young people have a better understanding of the benefits of healthy eating.

Although young people are encouraged to comment and sign information which is written about them, few actually take part. One young person said, 'this is my home and I want it to feel like my home, not a children's home. The staff talk to me about everything, so I don't see why need to write things down.' It is clear that young people feel confident and secure in the home and have opportunities to review their records should they wish.

Records of young people missing from home are further improved. Information now contains a full account of all actions taken including information from individual risk assessments. As a result, appropriate information pertinent to securing the safe return of young people is recorded on file.

All young people attend appropriate educational provisions and are consistently supported by dedicated staff. Consequently, young people make good progress in school and achievements are celebrated across the curriculum with young people's grades consistently improving.

Despite these strengths, there are some weaknesses. Regulation 33 reports are ineffective. There is a clear lack of substance, evaluation and consistency in the review of care in the home. Likewise, reports are not regularly forwarded to Ofsted for review. Consequently, the present system fails to provide any current value in identifying areas of progression or indeed development in the home.

Staff receive annual on-line mandatory training and the majority of staff have completed the NVQ at level 3. However, there is no formally agreed training plan for the continued development of staff. Consequently, staff are unclear how their individual training needs are to be met. As a result, one requirement and one recommendation have been made at this inspection to address the shortfalls. The home shows capacity to improve.

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
33 (2001)	ensure that reports provided by the registered provider contain a suitable analysis and evaluation on the conduct of the home and that reports are forwarded to Ofsted without delay.	30/04/2013

	(Regulation 4 (a) 5 (a))	
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Recommendations

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

- ensure that a good quality learning and development programme which staff are supported to undertake. It includes induction, post qualifying and in-service training to enhance individual skills of staff working with young people and to keep staff up-to-date with professional and legal developments. (NMS 18.1)

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*.