

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC063683
Inspection date	14/02/2012
Inspector	Alicea Churchward
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	26/07/2011
--------------------------------	------------

© Crown copyright 2012

Website: www.ofsted.gov.uk

This document may be reproduced in whole or in part for non-commercial educational purposes, provided that the information quoted is reproduced without adaptation and the source and date of publication are stated.

Service information

Brief description of the service

The home offers accommodation to six young people. The building is designed in a way that offers plenty of space to the young people, including a large lawn garden area to the rear of the building.

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 purpose of this visit is to assess the progress made since the time of the last inspection and how any progress has improved the quality of care and outcomes for young people. The last full inspection was undertaken in July 2011; the home was then found to be satisfactory. At that time the provider and Registered Manager were asked to take account of requirements and recommendations to improve further the quality of care in the home.

At the time of this visit there are no restrictions imposed upon young people's telephone contact; the Registered Manager is in the process of devising a consent form for placing social workers should this be required in the future. The Statement of Purpose now includes criteria used for admission to the home, including the home's policy and procedures for emergency admissions. The parents guide has been distributed so that all parents are clear about; complaints, restraint and reviews. The children's guide includes a section about how a child can contact their Independent Reviewing Officer. Contact details of the Children's Rights Director are not included; the manager reported that remedial action to address this would be taken on the day of the inspection.

Regulation 33 visits are not being conducted at regular intervals and all copies of these independent visits are available in the home. Having said that, improvements are noted; the quality of the visits are steadily improving; visitors have undertaken training in their responsibilities and the authority have provided comprehensive guidance to the visitors; this is to ensure that there are good qualitative audits of records; staff and young people are interviewed in private and contribute to the overall opinion of the standard of care provided.

Young people are consulted in the Regulation 34 monitoring of the home through young people's meetings and the home has devised a visually appealing questionnaire to obtain their views on a regular basis; action is taken to improve the quality of care and wishes and feelings expressed. This also ensures that the views and wishes of young people are taken into account regarding the daily life of the home.

Young people are provided with access to a telephone on which to make and receive telephone calls in private; they do not have to ask staff to use this. In addition, young people who have mobile telephones are given £5 credit per week included in their allowances provided by the home.

The use of restraint is low and all incidents requiring an intervention are recorded young people are given an opportunity to record their views about restraints on records made by staff and all records now contain the duration of any restraint.

Young people are able to live in a homely environment that allows a certain degree of freedom and where the rules regarding a safe environment are implemented sensibly; the practice of locking of communal areas such as the kitchen and young people's bedrooms has now ceased.

The home has a good complaints procedure; young people know that they can complain about matters affecting them; this is evident in the complaints record maintained in the home. The manager ensures that young people receive prompt feedback on any concerns or complaints raised and that they are kept informed of progress.

Individual risk assessments were not inspected on this occasion and will be inspected at the next full inspection of the service.

The home is making good progress; young people have achieved placement stability; staff report positively about progress made since the time of the last inspection; the Registered Manager gave a number of good examples about how the quality of care is being improved; observations of interactions between young people and staff are good. One requirement has been carried forward to the next inspection and part of a recommendation has also been carried forward. These matters are having no impact upon young people at this time.

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 Regulation 33 visits take place at least once a month; prepare a written report; supply a copy of the report to Ofsted and the Registered Manager of the home. (Regulation 33 (3)(4)(c)(5))	31/03/2012

Recommendations

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

- ensure that the children's guide includes how a child can contact the Children's Rights Director. (NMS 13.5)

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 (March 2011)*.