

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC063683
Inspection date	28/03/2014
Inspector	Alicea Churchward
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	23/05/2013
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Service information

Brief description of the service

This is a local authority home that provides care and accommodation for six children with emotional and/or 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**.

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 May 2013; the home was then found to be good. 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.

Since that time one of the three requirements issued at the time of the last inspection has been met and the Registered Manager now monitors all of the staff recruitment information to ensure compliance with Regulations; this helps to make sure that young people are cared for by adults who are suitably checked to keep young people as safe as possible. However at the time of this visit an incomplete employment history remains evident.

Two requirements have been partially met the independent visitors to the home have tried to get the views from young people about the quality of their care experience at the home. However these views are limited and young people have limited

discussions with the visitors. A previous requirement is therefore repeated. Additionally the reports are not being sent to the home in a timely way, for example; a visit was undertaken in February, the report has not been sent to the Registered Manager of the home at the time of this visit, at the end of March.

Young people overall say that the home is good in some areas and adequate in others. They met as a group with the inspector to discuss their concerns. They know how to make a complaint but say 'what is the point.'

Young people's meetings are held but attendance of these by young people is limited. The home needs to consider more creative ways of engaging young people to have their say to resolve any areas of concern. This is important because then the group of young people can see that they have an influence over the decision making in the home.

Things that were raised during the meeting with young people were; access to the kitchen, the television package, the varying personal allowances that young people receive in this home, that they have compared to private providers in the area (which they feel is less and unfair), access to the dining room at night. The current manager agreed to record these as complaints so that the outcomes of young people's concerns are recorded.

Staff views are mixed. There has been a lot of movement of staff within the service and some staff who have not worked at the home for long are now moving on to other positions. This can have an impact upon young people because they like the staff and need some stability during their stay at this home.

The Registered Manager is leaving the home. A leaving lunch had been organised and well attended. Another manager from a closed children's home in the authority will now manage this home. An application to become registered with Ofsted is in the process of being completed.

The home has maintained quality of care and outcomes for young people and has addressed some requirements that were raised at the previous inspection. As a result the home is making adequate progress.

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
26 (2001)	ensure that all staff files contain a complete employment history or a written explanation of any gaps (Regulation	30/06/2014

	26(1)(d) and Schedule 2 (6))	
33 (2001)	ensure that Regulation 33 reports make specific reference as to whether young people and staff are given the opportunity to meet with the visitor in private and that reports indicate what their views are on a regular basis (Regulation 33 (4)(a))	30/06/2014

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*.