

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	02/01/2014
Inspector	Bill Drumm
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	23/07/2013
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Service information

Brief description of the service

The home accommodates up to eight young people who have emotional and behavioural difficulties or learning disabilities. It is provided by a private organisation.

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**.

At the last inspection in July 2013, the overall effectiveness rating of the home was good. The home has made good progress since the last inspection. Young people seen at the time of the inspection were happy, relaxed and confident talking with both staff and visitors.

One requirement and three recommendations were made at the last inspection. All have been fully met. The requirement was to ensure that staff, do not pass young peoples' medication to family members for them to administer when it is not in its original packaging. The home's manager has reviewed the policies and procedures for the safe handling and administration of medication. Additionally, all staff has been reminded through team meetings and individual supervision sessions what their responsibilities are with regard to the safe administration of all medicines. This helps to ensure that young people receive only the correct dose of medication that has been prescribed for them and at the correct times.

One recommendation was to ensure that each young person who is old enough has an up-to-date pathway plan in place. The home's manager has liaised closely with all placing authorities to ensure that they are aware of their responsibilities with regards

to pathway planning. Additionally, the home's manager was able to provide clear evidence that the recent transition of a young person from the home into independent living had been meticulously planned and that all aspects of their care had been considered. This means that young people are supported to make a successful transition into adult hood and to live independently.

The home's manager has also reviewed the home's Statement of Purpose. The Statement of Purpose now fully complies with national minimum standards and regulations. Placing authorities know what the home offers and how the specific needs of young people can be met.

The third recommendation was to ensure that the results of all statutory reviews of placement plans are recorded on each young person's file and that individuals responsible for pursuing actions at the home arising from reviews are clearly identified. The home's manager has introduced documentation for recording the decisions made during statutory reviews. This documentation clearly records the decisions made and highlights those who are responsible for ensuring agreed action is taken. This helps to ensure the change needs of young people are met.

Since the last inspection the home has seen several young people move on to other placements. Overall, this has not had an unsettling effect on the home as new young people have been admitted. Staff continue to provide good quality care and young people are making good progress. Those who have recently been admitted to the home have settled well and are attending education full-time. This will help them to achieve their full potential.

The home's manager has indicated that the continued use of clear and unambiguous behaviour strategies is having a positive effect on young people, some of who have begun to participate in structured leisure pursuits in the community. Examples of such activities include, attending army cadets and playing for a local football team. One staff member said, 'we've even managed to get them interested in cricket. They thought it was a boring game until they went into bat and were facing a fast bowler'. Participating in new activities helps young people to develop socially acceptable behaviour, self-confidence and self-esteem.

Additionally, the home's manager has agreed to take part in a community initiative organised by the local police and the anti- social behaviour team. The purpose of this initiative to share ideas about how to reduce the instances of young people going missing from children's homes. Sharing ideas and practice in this manner will help to keep young people safe.

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*.