

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	05/12/2012
Inspector	Nicholas Murphy
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	27/06/2012
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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 **satisfactory progress**.

At the last inspection the children's home was judged to be good. Young people continue to make excellent progress. They are in very good health and doing well in their education and training. Young people have access to a range of activities which are well supported by staff. For example, one young person expressed an interest in playing for his local football team and staff organised this. Another wanted to try athletics so this too has been set up. The home has bought another young person a provisional driving license and a course of lessons. This will not only provide the young person with the opportunity to experience success but also give him a vital skill within the employment market. Other activities on offer promote young people's social competence. For example, the young people are eagerly anticipating the forthcoming Christmas Ball, where they dress formally and mix with a wide range of people in a public venue.

There are very few incidents where young people go missing. Staff need to use sanctions and restraints infrequently. This reflects the ethos of the home to promote good behaviour through positive encouragement and the application of consistent and well understood boundaries. Staff help and encourage young people to make

informed choices in relation to day-to-day living. Staff use key worker sessions to discuss each young person's care plan and praise the progress they have made.

The home is comfortable and meets all the needs of young people. Any maintenance tasks are attended to promptly to ensure that the highest standards are maintained. Staff are well organised and receive good supervision and training. This enables them to provide skilled support to young people. The Registered Manager is ambitious to develop staff further and build on their skills and knowledge. For example, all staff are currently undergoing training in child sexual exploitation. Other improvements are planned. For example, the document which is prepared for looked after review meetings is being revised. This will focus more on outcomes for young people, and so help them, their social workers and parents to better understand the progress they have made. The Registered Manager consults frequently with parents and social workers. However, internal monitoring does not make formal use of this consultation. This means that the opportunity to take account of the views of all those who use the service is lost.

At the last inspection there were three statutory requirements and three recommendations. All except one statutory requirement have been addressed. The Registered Manager has acted promptly to ensure that arrangements for fire safety within the home comply with requirements. Several requirements and recommendations in relation to recruitment and vetting checks have been addressed to improve practice. Information on individual young people's files has been modified to ensure that the names of other young people are not included, thus ensuring confidentiality.

However, the one statutory requirement that has not been addressed relates to the record of restraint. Restraints which have occurred since the last inspection still do not have all required information recorded in the bound record. Specifically, it is not clear how a young person was restrained during an incident. Additionally, the record does not always confirm that the young person or the member of staff involved was spoken to afterwards. These shortfalls compromise the effectiveness of this important record and make the accountability of the home for the use of restraint less robust. This requirement has therefore been repeated.

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
17B (2001)	ensure that within 24 hours of the use of any measure of restraint in a children's home, a written record is made in a volume kept for the purpose, including all required information,	04/01/2013

	and specifically that the nature of the restraint is described in plain language (Regulation 17B(3 and 4))	
34 (2001)	establish and maintain a system for improving the quality of care provided in the children's home, specifically to provide for consultation with children accommodated in the home, their parents and placing authorities. (Regulation 34(3))	04/01/2013

Recommendations

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

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)*.