

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC066242
Inspection date	18/03/2014
Inspector	Chris Scully
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	15/10/2013
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Service information

Brief description of the service

The home is registered to provide care and accommodation for two young people. It may also provide transitional care for young people entering into adulthood for a specified period of time. The home is owned 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**.

The overall effectiveness of this children's home was judged as good at the full inspection in October 2013. Some areas for improvement were found relating to the quality of the manager's monitoring reports; notifications to Ofsted; complaints record; the health care plan; internal care plan; missing from care risk assessments and risk assessments. Also an up-to-date copy of the home's Statement of Purpose had not been sent to Ofsted.

Young people continue to live in a safe and supportive environment where they receive a good quality of care. The majority of the recommendations made at the last inspection have been addressed. The manager has provided Ofsted with an up-to-date Statement of Purpose, which clearly outlines the objectives of the children's homes, the services provided and the arrangements for promoting and safeguarding young people's welfare. The manager ensures Ofsted is notified of all significant events. This promotes transparency and continuity of care for young people. Any concerns or complaints about the service are logged within the complaints record. All complaints are investigated and the complainant provided with an outcome of these.

There have been no complaints about the service since the last inspection.

There is some improvement in the monitoring of the home by the Registered Individual. However, the manager's monitoring reports are not detailed or evaluative enough to provide an accurate picture of the quality of care, the strengths and the areas for development, and the difference that the home is making in achieving good outcomes for young people. The Registered Individual is in the process of securing an independent person to undertake the monitoring of the home and feels this will enable them to move forward.

Young people's written records now show their health needs, arrangements for promoting their health and details of their progress in achieving healthy lifestyles. Staff have a good understanding of each young person's health care needs and what they are doing to support this. However, on occasion the plans lack detail with regards to potential allergic reactions for example how this manifests and the action to take as a result of this. This is a recording issue as staff have a clear understanding of this and what they need to do to support young people.

Young people are safe because staff identify their individual risks and vulnerabilities. This means they are able to create detailed risk assessments for example around missing from care to help keep young people safe. Young people say they continue to feel safe here and are happy. This is enhanced by the detailed internal care plans which outline the current support provided to young people to help them continue to make good progress.

There has been a dip in some young people's attendance at school due to the imminent move on into semi-independence. However staff continue to work to help them enrol on college courses so that they can continue with their education. Other young people say they still enjoy school and feel that they are doing well. They are pleased with the contact they have with their families and talk with increased confidence about the new friends they have made as a result of this.

Areas for improvement

Recommendations

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

- ensure there are clear and effective procedures in place for the monitoring of the home, in particular reports by the Registered Manager and independent person are evaluative and record any identified shortfalls (NMS 21.1)
- ensure there are systems in place to monitor the quality and adequacy of record keeping and take action where needed, in particular that records clearly reflect current practice with regards to health care plans. (NMS 22.1)

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*.