

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	06/12/2012
Inspector	Malcolm Stannard
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	14/08/2012
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Service information

Brief description of the service

The registered provider is a limited company. This children's home is registered to provide care and accommodation for three young people with emotional and behavioural difficulties or mental disorders excluding learning 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**.

At the last inspection in August 2012, the overall effectiveness of the home was judged to be adequate. At that inspection one requirement and four recommendations for improvement were made. Appropriate action has been taken to address the requirement and three of the recommendations.

The home were required to ensure that notifications of significant events occurring were made to the relevant external agencies. Since the last inspection all events have been reported by the manager as required.

The manager at the home undertakes a comprehensive assessment including a risk assessment on all young people who are referred for placement at the home. This ensures that information available is sufficient to make a considered decision on whether the home can realistically meet the assessed needs of the young person. This means that the impact on young people already accommodated can also be measured, ensuring their care is not disrupted.

Records held of staff recruitment and vetting checks which have been undertaken have been reviewed to ensure that clearly identifiable photographic identity is present. This protects the welfare of young people as legible documents enable the manager to confirm staff identification.

Work has been carried out to ensure that personal education plans are available for all young people at the home. The manager has implemented a system which requires placing authorities to provide a copy of the plan at the earliest opportunity. This means that young people's educational targets are known and can be supported by staff.

At the previous inspection a gap in the knowledge of staff regarding young people's attachment patterns was identified and the provision of training was recommended. The manager stated that contact had been made with the local children and adolescent mental health service (CAMHS), and a training course had been identified. It is planned that all staff will attend the training in the spring of 2013. However, no agreed dates have yet been finalised or details entered onto staff members individual training plans. This recommendation is not met and is repeated on this inspection.

One additional requirement is made following this visit. The behaviour management recording system does not meet all the obligations of the regulation. Not all of the information required is entered into the records, the duration of an event is not clear and the entries are not always made within twenty four hours. Records of sanctions which have been issued do not clearly identify the effectiveness of the measure. This means that the appropriateness of the measure cannot always be determined or trends identified to inform future practice.

Some positive progress has been made at the home. A new assistant manager has been appointed which has enabled some concentrated work on improving the quality of care at the home to be undertaken. There is a clear vision of the progress desired and a comprehensive development plan is nearing completion. There is clarity for the managers and staff team of the needs of the young people at the home. Detailed care plans are in place to ensure the most urgent needs identified, such as health and education are able to be addressed.

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 control, restraint or discipline in a children's home, a written record is made in a volume kept for the purpose. Specifically,	01/03/2013

	ensure that all required information is recorded in restraint records and the effectiveness of sanctions is clearly identified. (Regulation 17 (b))	
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Recommendations

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

- ensure staff are equipped to meet the needs of all children. In particular consider training in attachment patterns. (NMS 18.1)

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*.