

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC066458
Inspection date	20/01/2012
Inspector	Ann-Marie Born
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	03/08/2011
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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)*.

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.

Service information

Brief description of the service

The registered provider is a limited company which operates a number of other children's homes. This setting provides up to three long-term placements for young people aged from 11 to 17 years.

Progress

Since their previous inspection the service is judged to be making **satisfactory** progress.

This interim inspection has focused on the progress made by the home since their last full inspection in August 2011, at which they were judged to be good. At the last inspection one statutory requirement and two recommendations were made. The home has addressed the requirement and met one of the recommendations. The other recommendation has been partially addressed and is repeated as a result of this inspection.

The home's Statement of Purpose has been updated to contain relevant staff information. Young people, their parents and placing authorities benefit from knowing that staff employed are suitably experienced and qualified to meet the needs of the young people in their care. A staff member reported that young people felt that the information they had been provided with regarding the Children's Rights Director had been so 'helpful' that they had shared the contact details with friends.

Young people's attendance at education and training provision is much improved and their achievements celebrated within the home by the enthusiastic and caring Registered Manager and staff team. A social worker commented, 'one thing that really sticks out for me as an improvement, that he's continued to go to the course every day he should when he's never done that before'. A parent stated 'what they have done with him is really brilliant and I am very happy.' The resultant growth in young people's self-esteem and confidence in their abilities enhances their well-being and future opportunities.

Good individual risk assessments have been developed in response to young people exhibiting intimidating behaviour towards staff members. A staff member stated that 'It has improved definitely now because we have more staff on'. However, a generic risk assessment for the home specifying staffing levels and gender balance has not been completed. As a result potential risks to all young people and staff members have not been identified. This does not assure young people's welfare and safety at all times. In addition, not all significant events have been appropriately notified to Ofsted therefore the opportunity for having a multi-agency approach for monitoring the care of young people is being missed.

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
25 (2001)	ensure that there is at all times having regard to the need to safeguard and promote the health and welfare of the children accommodated in the home a sufficient number of suitably qualified, competent and experienced persons working in the home (Regulation 25 (1)(b))	06/02/2012
30 (2001)	ensure that if any event listed in column 1 of the table in Schedule 5 takes place, the registered person shall, without delay, notify the persons indicated in respect of the event in column 2 of the table. (Regulation 30. Schedule 5)	06/02/2012

Recommendations

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

- ensure that where only one member of staff is on duty at any time, a risk assessment has been carried out and recorded in writing, identifying any likely risks to children, staff and members of the public. (NMS 17.9)