

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC066458
Inspection date	27/01/2014
Inspector	Simon Morley
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	30/05/2013
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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 **good progress**.

The last full inspection of the home was on 21 June 2013. The overall effectiveness at that time was judged to be good with an adequate judgement for outcomes for young people. Good judgements were made for the quality of care, safeguarding, and leadership and management. There were no identified improvements. The adequate judgement for outcomes was a result of children and young people only recently being admitted to the home making it too early to judge this area higher.

Since then children and young people have made very good progress in their lives. Minor improvements are required from this inspection with regard to record keeping. These are not judged to impact on the welfare and safety of young people. There is a strong focus on monitoring the quality of care and improving outcomes for young people. As a result the home is judged to be making good progress.

Monitoring by the registered provider is good with monthly reports providing some analysis and evaluation of how well young people enjoy and achieve. The manager is clear about the strengths and weaknesses of the service and frequently reviews the development plan for the home. This helps provide effective leadership and direction

for staff. The staff team are enthusiastic and provide effective support for children and young people significantly improving their life chances.

Young people have a good say in what happens in the home and their day-to-day care. They are included in developing their individual plans and have their own child friendly copy. Regular one-to-one time with staff helps young people to settle into the home, talk about any issues, and have a say in their care and their future. Safeguarding issues are taken seriously and ensure children and young people are protected from harm.

Children and young people make good progress in a number of areas. Significant improvements are made in behaviour particularly when compared to children and young people's starting points. This includes a reduction in risky behaviour and self-harming. Children and young people benefit from the consistent boundaries and caring, professional approach from staff. One of the strengths of the service is how well staff engage with children and young people to develop strong and trusting relationships. This provides children and young people the positive experience of good adult relationships in a safe, homely environment.

Children and young people develop their independence and life skills contributing well to their transition to adulthood. For example managing stressful situations more maturely, independent travel, cooking, budgeting, engaging with support services and pursuing their education and employment opportunities.

There has been a reduction in the use of physical intervention as children and young people are supported well to develop more positive behaviour. While this is used as a last resort to ensure no one is hurt, records do not consistently identify the need for physical intervention. The manager regularly monitors records and practice to ensure children and young people are not restrained inappropriately. In addition it is not clear that children and young people are routinely offered a medical check each time physical intervention is used. These shortfalls are not judged to have impacted on children and young people's welfare or safety at this inspection.

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 written records of the use of restraint include details of the child's behaviour and any methods used to avoid the need to physically intervene (Regulation 17B (3) (b) & (4) (b))	28/03/2014

Recommendations

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

- ensure children are always given the opportunity to be examined by a registered nurse or medical practitioner after any physical restraint (NMS 3.16)

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*.