

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	31/01/2014
Inspector	Debbie Foster
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	07/11/2013
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Service information

Brief description of the service

This service is a young people's home run by a company. It provides three medium to long-term placements for young people who have emotional and behavioural 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**.

At the last full inspection carried out in November 2013, the home was judged as good. Following this interim inspection the home is judged to have made good progress. The home has improved the quality of care and has addressed the requirement and the majority recommendations made at the previous inspection.

Young people continue to live in a safe, caring and supportive environment that enables them to make good progress in many aspects of their lives.

Notable improvements in outcomes for young people are in their health, education attendance and safety. Young people's health is given importance by staff. Young people have successfully attended all routine health check-ups and where required have receive emotional support from specialist services. This is providing improved health outcomes for young people. The staff have persevered with determination to engage young people in education with good success for all. Where there have been incidents of young people going missing from home; these have reduced in response to the work undertaken with young people. As a result, young people are kept safe.

The home is effectively managed and continues to show capacity for improvement based on its performance since the last inspection. The requirements from the previous inspection have been positively addressed. The Statement of Purpose has been reviewed. To give further clarity to the admissions criteria, setting out much clearer how the needs of individual young person will be met along with that of the group living at the home. The kitchen has been refurbished and several rooms have been decorated to provide young people with a suitable and comfortable environment in which to live.

Progress has been made in addressing the majority of the recommendations from the previous inspection. The deficiencies identified by the homes monitoring systems have been acted upon to further improve the quality of care delivered. The majority of staff have received guidance and training to provide appropriate care to young people with particular need which includes autism, self-harm, substance misuse and mental health.

One recommendation has not been implemented in full. Young people are being encouraged to undertake daily living tasks to promote independence and self-care skills appropriate to young people's age and understanding. However, these are not always routinely taking place for some young people. This does not ensure young people will be full prepared and equipped with all the necessary skills to care for themselves when leaving care.

Areas for improvement

Recommendations

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

- ensure staff receive guidance to provide appropriate care if looking after children with complex health needs. In particular, mental health needs. (NMS 6.8)

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*.