

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	14/12/2012
Inspector	Angela Whiteley
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	22/05/2012
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Service information

Brief description of the service

This private home is registered to provide care and accommodation for up to two young people who have emotional and behavioural difficulties or learning difficulties. The home is also registered to provide education.

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 in May 2012, the overall judgement of the home was adequate. Three requirements and four recommendations were made, which the Registered Manager has positively addressed. The children's home has made substantial progress in all areas, improving the quality of care and outcomes for young people.

The home has a more robust system of notification of child protection incidents to Ofsted, which ensures young people are able to receive the necessary support and protection immediately. The manager regularly chases placing authorities for missing documents to ensure young people's files are up-to-date. This ensures young people have an accurate record of their care history and that staff are able to support their current needs. Young people confirm they are actively involved in decisions about their care and fully understand the purpose of their plan. They are aware they can request independent support to help them get their views and wishes heard but do not wish to do this at this time.

Staff are clear about their responsibilities regarding young people smoking. Young

people are encouraged to access a range of health support services, which promote their health. For example, they attend a smoking cessation clinic and early break services for alcohol and drug misuse and take regular exercise.

Staff support young people with regular family contact. Young people have their own mobile phones and the home provides a weekly top up allowance to ensure regular contact is possible when they leave the home. However, young people are not able to access a telephone at the home without seeking permission from staff, as it is located in the staff office, which is locked.

The home is well-maintained and provides a clean, comfortable and homely environment. The staff have addressed the routine cleaning of bedrooms and bathrooms with young people. Effective incentives are in place that encourages young people to undertake specific chores shown on their personal cleaning rota. Individual risk assessments identify circumstances where staff will undertake these tasks to ensure the welfare and safety of young people.

Behaviour management is a key area at this home where young people are learning to take responsibility for their behaviours. Young people respond positively to the range of incentives and rewards in place and are accepting of agreed sanctions. There have been no incidents of physical restraint and incidents of missing from home have significantly reduced since the last inspection.

The home has undergone several changes since the last inspection. A number of staff changes, has established a new experienced staff team who are able to meet the current and emerging needs of the young people currently placed. Some young people are relatively new in placement. They settle quickly with high standards of care and make good progress relative to the time they have lived there. As a result, young people are achieving positive outcomes in many aspects of their lives. This includes emotional resilience, education, health, family contact, behaviour management and preparation for independence and adult life.

The home fulfils its aims and objectives. The manager is taking an organised and proactive approach to managing the home. As a result, staff have the necessary support to deliver a strong, child-focused service that helps young people fulfil their aspirations and achieve their potential. The manager has robust quality assurance systems in place, which monitor the management of the home, the quality of care, young people's welfare and progress and the home's records. Any area of weakness identified is dealt with promptly by the Registered Manager, which ensures the standards within the home continue to improve.

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
15 (2001)	ensure that children accommodated in the home have access to a telephone to make and receive telephone calls in private, which they may use without reference to persons working in the home. (Regulation 15 (4) (a))	18/01/2013

Recommendations

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

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*.