

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	20/02/2014
Inspector	Chris Scully
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	31/07/2013
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Service information

Brief description of the service

The home provides care and accommodation for up to four young people aged 10 to 17 years, who may experience 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**.

The home was last inspected in June 2013, when the overall effectiveness was judged to be good. Following that inspection five recommendations were made relating to monitoring of the home by the Registered Manager and independent person; monitoring of missing from care risk assessments; return to care records young people placement plans including pathway plans first aid record; and maintenance of the home.

The home has improved upon young people's safety. This is because the wasps nest has been removed from the rear yard. This means young people can safely access this area. Young people have been instrumental in the reorganisation of the lounge/games room. Consequently, this provides a more homely environment for young people to relax in.

The home has improved upon the recording within records and documentation, as it has introduced additional monitoring systems. This means shortfalls in records are usually identified and acted upon. For example, missing from care risk assessments and return to care records are appropriately completed and contribute to the on-going safety of young people. Key worker sessions are more detailed and provide

greater insight in to the young person's experiences within the home and how they are involved in their care planning. The home ensures the local authority care planning documentation is up-to-date and they are proactive in seeking additional information such as young people's pathway plans. This means they are able to provide good care and support to young people.

Steps have been taken to enhance the monitoring of the home by the Registered Manager and independent person for the organisation. However, reports do not clearly identify any shortfalls or the action taken to address these. Whilst this recommendation has not been fully met there is some evidence that this is actually taking place in practice. This is a recording issue and does not directly impact upon the care provided to young people.

Other records and documentation are generally well maintained. The home has introduced a new format for the recording of any first aid or treatment administered to young people. However at the time of inspection this had not been required so the effectiveness of this cannot be ascertained at this time. Other records are generally well maintained and show the progress young people are making. Although there are minor issues with regards to the homes person centred plan as it has not been updated in light of new medical information. This is a recording issue and does not impact upon the care provided

Missing from care is not an issue for these young people. A system is in place to record any episodes of missing from care; however this does not provide a clear audit trail. This means it can be problematic to track incidents and vital information may be missed. The home works well with other agencies and using recent reports to further enhance their knowledge of child sexual exploitation and to improve upon the homes protocols for reporting young people should they be missing. This includes implementing systems to consult and notify schools to gain additional information when young people go missing.

Young people residing in the home say they are happy and feel safe here. They say they are fully consulted on all aspects of their care and as a result feel they are valued and listened to. The home has worked closely with schools to ensure any barriers to young people's learning are overcome. In particular one young person is being supported during the school day by staff from the home, without this support the young person would not be able to continue with their education. Similarly staff spoke to school about rearranging additional lessons to relieve the pressure young people were feeling and this resulted in the young persons return to school.

Young people talk animatedly about their love of drama and recent school productions. They were pleased family members and staff were in the audience to watch their performance. Young people say they have a good relationship with staff and there is nothing they can do to improve things anymore for them. This is obvious from the positive and lively interaction between staff and young people which are based upon trust and respect for one another.

Areas for improvement

Recommendations

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

- Ensure information about young people is recorded in a way which will be helpful to the child when they access their files now or in the future, in particular the missing from care records and the homes own person centred plan (NMS 22.5)
- ensure monitoring of the home identifies any concerns, in particular reports are evaluative and any shortfalls in records are clearly recorded as well as the action taken to rectify this (NMS 21.1)

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*.