

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC067810
Inspection date	06/03/2014
Inspector	Karen Malcolm
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	23/09/2013
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Service information

Brief description of the service

This service is a registered children's home for up to seven young people with emotional and behavioural difficulties. It is privately owned.

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

At the time of this inspection there were no children or young people in placement. The home has been closed since November 2013. Therefore, this inspection focuses on whether the children's home meets its statutory requirements in order to maintain its registration and is ready to accept placements; as a result no judgment was made.

The last full inspection in September 2013 the overall effectiveness was judged as adequate. Two requirements and six recommendations were made, however, the records pertaining to young people care and support has been archived at the organisation's head office. Therefore, the lead inspector was unable to assess the home progress since the last inspection and the requirements and recommendations have been restated in this report.

The Registered Persons are preparing to re-open the home within the next three months. Prior to re-opening the home the Registered Persons are in the process of submit an application to vary the home's conditions of registration, to supporting and accommodating children and young people with learning difficulties. The Registered Persons are aware of the timescales to undertake this task and have put clear plans in place to manage this effectively.

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)	prepare and implement a written policy (in this regulation referred to as the "behaviour management policy") which sets out the means whereby appropriate behaviour is to be promoted in the home (Regulation 17B(1)(b))	31/05/2014
27 (2001)	ensure that all persons employed by him receive appropriate training, supervision and appraisal (Regulation 27(4)(a))	31/05/2014
33 (2001)	ensure that when carrying out a Regulation 33 visit interview, with their consent and in private, such of the children accommodated there, their parents, relatives and persons working at the home as appears necessary in order to form an opinion of the standard of care provided in the home. (Regulation 33(4)(a))	31/05/2014

Recommendations

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

- ensure that sanctions and rewards for behaviour are clear, reasonable and fair and are understood by all staff and children (NMS 3.8)
- ensure that staff actively search for children who are missing, including working with police where appropriate (NMS 5.5)
- ensure that risk assessments of the whole children's home environment are carried out, to identify any potential sources of harm to the children are recorded in writing and regularly reviewed (this is in relation to food storage for those young people in semi-independence living)(NMS 10.8)
- ensure that new staff undertake the Children's Workforce Development Council's induction standards, commencing within 7 working days of starting their employment and being completed within 6 months (NMS 18.3)
- ensure that all existing care staff have attained a minimum level 3 qualification. All new staff engaged from the commencement of the NMS (in April 2011) are to hold the level 3 Children & Young Peoples Workforce Diploma which must include mandatory social care units; or be working towards the Diploma within 6 months of confirmation of employment (NMS 18.5)

- ensure that the manager regularly monitors, in line with regulations, all records kept by the home to ensure compliance with the home's policies, to identify any concerns about specific incidents and to identify patterns and trends. Immediate action is taken to address any issues raised by this monitoring. (NMS 21.2)

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*.