

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC069474
Inspection date	15/01/2013
Inspector	Janet Hunnam
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	

Date of last inspection	30/10/2012
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Service information

Brief description of the service

This children's home is registered to accommodate three young people with emotional and/or behavioural difficulties. It is owned by a private organisation.

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 inspection in October 2012, the home was judged good for overall effectiveness. One recommendation was made in relation to the recording of staff supervision sessions and this has been addressed. The home ensures that the records of supervision include the date, time and length of each member of staff's supervision session.

Young people are making excellent progress at the home, particularly in the context of their starting points at the time of admission. Behaviour management strategies, underpinned by positive, trusting relationships between young people and staff, are effective and result in significant improvements in young people's behaviour. Staff promote independence skills, allowing young people to acquire the knowledge and skills they require for their transition to adulthood and future placements.

Staff provide highly individualised care, identifying and responding to the specific needs of each young person. Thorough and detailed identification of risk with comprehensive strategies to reduce young people's risk-taking behaviour result in very few incidents of young people leaving the home without permission and a substantial reduction in aggressive and threatening behaviour.

A stable and experienced staff team, with a depth of understanding of young people's difficulties, care for young people and manage a wide range of complex, presenting behaviour. Led by skilful and committed managers and supported by appropriate external professionals, staff provide high levels of consistent support enabling young people to make progress.

A good standard of monitoring continues to be in place with monthly Regulation 33 reports highlighting any areas the manager needs to address. Action plans are in place following these recommendations to maintain high standards of care. However, these reports do not include the views of young people and staff which may impact on future developments and improvements.

Staff are proactive in safeguarding young people when they leave the home without permission and have close liaison with the local police. The procedures for managing such incidents, however, do not include reference to the local police protocol for young people who are missing from care.

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
16 (2001)	ensure that a procedure to be followed when any child accommodated in the children's home is absent without permission has regard to any relevant local authority or police protocols on missing children (Regulation 16(4)(b))	01/03/2013
33 (2001)	ensure that the person carrying out the visit shall interview, with the 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))	01/03/2013

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*.