

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	10/12/2013
Inspector	Ann-Marie Born
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	16/04/2013
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Service information

Brief description of the service

This privately owned children's home is registered to provide care and accommodation for one young person with emotional and/or 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**.

This home was judged as good at the previous full inspection in April 2013. Following this interim inspection, this home is judged to be making good progress and has successfully addressed the requirement and recommendation identified in the previous inspection. This inspection identifies two further requirements relating to monitoring processes and two recommendations relating to young people's wishes. Young people benefit from the persistent approach taken to ensure that local authorities provide the requisite documentation specified in Schedule 3 of the children's homes regulations. Young people's records contain copies of their statement of special educational need. This ensures that young people's learning needs are identified and areas of development are planned for and addressed. As a result young people are provided with the opportunity to make good progress from their starting points.

The nurturing and motivated staff team remain consistent in their approach to empowering young people to plan positively for their future and achieve to the best of their ability. Much improved pathway plans and preparation for independence ensure that young people develop necessary practical life skills. Consequently young people enjoy increased confidence in their self-care abilities thereby enhancing their self-esteem. A social worker stated, 'It was the most settled period she (a young

person) had ever had and they really helped her to move in to semi-independence positively.'

Independent monitoring visits routinely contribute to improvements, including ascertaining young people's views on their care and experiences. However, as parents or family members are not consulted their opinions are not being obtained. In addition, neither young people's views on their care, or those of their parents or professionals, are utilised as part of the manager's monitoring processes.

Consequently, young people and other interested parties are not being provided with the opportunity to influence the development of the home.

The committed manager and staff team know the young people in their care well and consistently build on positive behaviours. As a result young people are safeguarded as they make significant progress in learning more appropriate behavioural management skills and reducing missing episodes. A social worker: 'I was impressed with their care. (Name) was a very challenging young lady. They stuck by her and went above and beyond.'

Young people's identified needs are addressed in focussed work sessions and then audited in their monthly progress reports. Although these sessions are written up they are not read and signed by young people. Therefore, although young people are provided with a record of their life and experiences, opportunities to validate the experiences are being missed.

Young people are provided with a range of opportunities to share their wishes and feelings but not all specific requests are formally addressed. For example, changes in contact arrangements. It is evident, however, that young people are confident to express their views and are developing appropriate negotiation skills. The manager and staff are aspirational for young people to succeed and are good role models. They consistently challenge any inappropriate behaviours and language in a sensitive manner. Young people respond positively to this approach as they feel valued and that they belong. A staff member stated, 'I want to make sure he will get the best out of being here. I want the same for him I do for my lad.'

Young people feel safe in the home where safeguarding is a priority. Staff are knowledgeable about young people's specific vulnerabilities and ensure risk assessments and plans for their safety address their individual needs. This supports staff to ensure young people are safe at home and promotes their safety in the community. Young people feel cared for, protected and develop appropriate self-protection processes. A health professional stated, 'He really appreciates what they do for him. You can see he feels safe. The way staff are with young people help them to make that progress to trust and engage.'

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
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33 (2001)	ensure that the person carrying out the visit shall interview, with their consent and in private, such of the children accommodated there, their parents or relatives as appears necessary in order to form an opinion of the standard of care provided in the home (Regulation 33 (4)(a))	07/02/2014
34 (2001)	ensure that the system for monitoring the matters set out in Schedule 6 provide for consultation with children accommodated in the home; their parents and placing authorities. (Regulation 34 (1)(3))	07/02/2014

Recommendations

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

- ensure that all children communicate their views on all aspects of their care and support (NMS 1.3)
- ensure that children understand how their views have been taken into account and where significant wishes or concerns are not acted upon, they are helped to understand why. (NMS 1.2)

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*.