

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	13/01/2014
Inspector	Pete Hylton
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	18/07/2013
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Service information

Brief description of the service

The children's home is run by a private organisation and is registered to provide care and accommodation for two young people with emotional 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 last inspected in July 2013 and was judged to be good. Four recommendations were made. The Registered Manager has ensured that appropriate actions have been taken to address these recommendations. This means that the quality of care has improved and the home is judged to be making good progress.

Since the last inspection, staff have attended refresher training in safeguarding and fire safety. As a result, the staff team are knowledgeable and competent in these areas of care practice. However, planned refresher training for restraint training did not take place within the prescribed timescales. As a result, there exists the potential for staff, who may not be fully up to date with their skills in this area, to restrain young people. Since the last inspection, there have been no incidents of restraint. As a result, there is no demonstrable impact, to date, on the outcomes for young people as a result of this shortfall. However, a recommendation has been made to ensure that all staff are trained in the home's chosen method of restraint.

Where new staff have been employed, the Registered Manager has ensured that safe recruitment practices have been followed. As a result, young people are protected from access to individuals who may wish to cause them harm. Relationships between

staff and young people are positive and built on mutual respect. A young person commented that 'the staff are really nice' and 'I can open up to the staff and I feel comfortable being in the home.' This results in a relaxing, comfortable and friendly atmosphere where young people feel safe.

The home continues to be safely maintained and regularly checked for defects. Swift action is taken where shortfalls are identified. The staff team follow clear and robust routines to ensure that the home is maintained to a high standard. A young person commented that 'I think it is a really nice home.' This is further enhanced through regular monitoring visits to the home by an independent person. Reports from these visits detail areas for improvement and areas of strength. Since the last inspection, the Registered Manager has ensured that these reports are kept in the home. As a result, young people, the staff team and placing authorities are able to review the monitoring arrangements. This results in a home that is open, transparent and committed to further improvement. Furthermore, the recommendation from the last inspection has been fully addressed.

The Registered Manager's own quality assurance systems have improved. Regular reviews of the home's operation ensure that all required areas are robustly checked and areas for improvement identified. Furthermore, these reports are sent to Ofsted as required. This ensures that the regulator is able to review the home's progress and quality of service. As a result, the recommendation from the last inspection has been met. The home's development plan clearly sets out the key priorities for the home over the coming months. This ensures that all staff know the objectives of the home and work collaboratively to achieve these.

Areas for improvement

Recommendations

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

- ensure that where children's homes use restraint, staff are trained in the use of physical restraint techniques and only use the home's agreed techniques. Training is regularly refreshed. (NMS 3.15)

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*.