

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspector	Sarah Oldham
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Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	24/05/2013
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Service information

Brief description of the service

The home is a privately run children's home, which provides care and accommodation for up to two young people who may have 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 **satisfactory progress**.

At the last full inspection of this service in May 2013, the overall effectiveness was judged to be good. Since that inspection the home has made satisfactory progress.

The Registered Manager has taken action to ensure that the requirement made at the previous inspection in relation to ensuring that young people are supported to eat a healthy diet has been met. Young people are encouraged to eat balanced diets and are provided with a choice of meals. Staff prepare foods and encourage young people to get involved. This enables them to have an understanding of the importance of eating meals that are nutritious and wholesome. The recommendation with regards to supporting young people to understand their health care needs has also been met. Young people are supported in attending health care appointments and have annual health care checks. This enables them to have a good understanding of their health needs and they are helped to understand how to address them.

Young people are supported by an established staff team that provides them with

continuity of care. They benefit from regular key worker sessions that enables them to discuss their care and areas of support. These sessions have been beneficial in enabling young people to reflect on their behaviours and to develop strategies to increase positive behaviours. This is reflected in the reduction of sanctions and missing from home episodes.

Young people are encouraged to attend education or, where appropriate, work based programmes. However, for some young people, changes in their lives have resulted in attendance being inconsistent. Staff continue to encourage them to have a good understanding of the importance of education. Staff also engage with other agencies in finding appropriate educational or training courses that will benefit and engage young people. Although this is identified in daily recording, placement plans have not been updated to reflect the recent changes to the young people's needs. This does not ensure that current needs of all young people, especially with regards their education, is clearly reflected and could impact on the support provided on a longer term basis.

Young people, in accordance with their age and understanding, are supported to develop some independence skills in preparation for adulthood. This includes looking after and tidying their rooms, undertaking their own laundry and helping to prepare meals. Staff also liaise with placing social workers to support the development of pathways plans when a young person reaches the age of sixteen. However, although staff support young people to develop an understanding about moving onto independence, this is not formalised. For example, planning, budgeting and shopping is not undertaken in a planned way to enable young people to understand what it will be like when they move either to living independently or within supported independence facilities. The manager and staff are further developing this area of practice to ensure that planned support is reflected within individual placement plans to provide young people with a good foundation of knowledge and skills for their future.

As a result of this inspection, four recommendations have been made. These relate to placement plans being updated on a regular basis or when there has been a change to individual plans; education or work experience being effectively promoted, and young people being supported to develop budgeting and financial knowledge in preparation for moving onto independence.

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 children are supported to attend school, college or an alternative provision regularly (NMS 8.3)
- ensure that children are supported to develop financial capability, knowledge and skills (NMS 12.1 (f))

- ensure that each child's Placement Plan is monitored by a key worker within the home who ensures that the requirements of the plan are implemented in the day-to-day care of that child. This is specifically in relation to updating the care plan when there has been a significant change to education (NMS 25.2)
- ensure that the results of all statutory reviews and reviews of Placement Plans are recorded on the child's file and individuals responsible for pursuing actions at the home arising from reviews are clearly identified (NMS 25.8)

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*.