

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	20/01/2014
Inspector	Monica Hargreaves
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	22/04/2013
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Service information

Brief description of the service

This privately run children's home provides care and accommodation for up to three young people 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 **satisfactory progress**.

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

One requirement was made at the last inspection. This related to the notification of significant events to Ofsted. This requirement is met. The manager understands his responsibilities in relation to this regulation. Since the last inspection he has kept relevant agencies fully informed of serious incidents involving young people. He has also notified Ofsted appropriately.

Two recommendations were made at the last inspection. These related to young people's risk assessments and to the maintenance of the home. These are both met. The manager has ensured that clear risk assessments are put in place for young people. These have been regularly reviewed to ensure that they remain up to date and contribute to protecting young people. Since the last inspection all repairs to the home have been completed and the home has been redecorated. Consequently, young people live in a homely and well maintained environment.

The quality of care has been maintained in the home. Young people benefit from being looked after by a consistent team of staff. Staff are either qualified or working to gain a relevant qualification. They have continuing training opportunities which enable them to maintain their knowledge and skills. Staff feel that they are supported very well by their manager and deputy manager. This helps them in their work with young people. Staff report that they communicate effectively and that they are consistent in their approach to young people. This helps to ensure the safety and well-being of young people.

Young people make steady progress over time in the home. They are supported to engage in education and as a result since the last inspection some young people have achieved success in examinations and gained qualifications. This helps to improve their chances in later life. Generally, young people's behaviour has improved over time as a result of the care they receive. This has supported their general progress. Young people themselves report that they feel safe in the home and that they have positive relationships with staff.

Before a decision is taken to admit young people to the home, the manager obtains information about them in order to ensure that their individual needs can be met. The manager also assesses the impact that they may have on other young people who are already accommodated. This process has not always been effective in ensuring that all young people are appropriately placed together. This has led to some young people having a negative impact on one another. Staff are addressing these issues with young people and the manager is reviewing the impact risk assessments that he completes before young people are admitted to the home.

All young people are helped to develop skills that will prepare them for future independence. However, not all "eligible" young people have a pathway plan in place that identifies their skills, the support they will need when they leave care and how this is to be provided for them.

Two recommendations have been made as a result of this inspection. These relate to young people's pathway plans and the impact risk assessments that are completed when young people are being considered for admission to the home.

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 all "eligible" young people have a pathway plan in place (NMS 12.2)
- ensure that the home only provides admission to children whose assessed needs they can reasonably expect to meet, specifically that there is sufficient information to enable an assessment of the likely impact of a new admission on the children already accommodated (NMS 11.2)

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*.