

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC357468
Inspection date	27/02/2013
Inspector	Helen Walker
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	10/12/2012
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Service information

Brief description of the service

The privately owned children's home provides 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 **satisfactory progress**.

At the last inspection, in December 2012, the overall effectiveness of the home was judged to be good. Since that inspection, the home has made satisfactory progress overall. Staff have enabled young people to make steady progress in many areas of their lives. One of the two previous recommendations made at the last inspection has been met.

The manager ensures young people have access to life story work through contact with a range of professionals. Additionally, staff are proactive to assist young people to keep memorabilia such as photographs and personal items. This supports them to understand their identity and gain an awareness of their past. Young people maintain regular contact with family and friends and develop age-appropriate friendships. Their friends and family are encouraged to visit the home and are made welcome. This is something the young people enjoy and look forward to.

Young people receive positive encouragement and reward for appropriate behaviours. Since the last inspection no physical intervention or sanctions have been used. However, young people's challenging behaviour in the home has resulted in

staff contacting the emergency services for assistance. Young people have not been criminalised as a result of this contact. Following the incidents, the manager has failed to effectively review young people's care arrangements. Consequently the staffing levels and behaviour management strategies used in the home have not been re-evaluated to consider their appropriateness.

Young people have comprehensive leaving care plans. Plans support their transition to independent living and help to ensure they are well prepared for adult life. A consistent and caring staff team work with the young people. They are knowledgeable about young people's individual needs and significantly promote their education. Staff receive training to assist them in their work, for example, safeguarding training including understanding child sexual exploitation. Young people regularly attend college and are working towards vocational qualifications.

A recommendation made at the last inspection regarding behaviour management has been escalated to a requirement. In total two requirements have been made following this inspection. The second requirement relates to staffing of the home in order to meet the assessed needs of the young people.

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
25 (2001)	ensure that there is at all times, having regard to the Statement of Purpose and needs of the children accommodated there, a sufficient number of suitably qualified, competent and experienced persons working at the children's home. In particular, that staffing levels are regularly reviewed (Regulation 25 (1)(a))	26/03/2013
11 (2001)	ensure that the children's home is conducted so as to promote and make proper provision for the welfare of children accommodated there. This is with particular regard to behaviour management strategies used in the home. (Regulation 11 (1) (a))	26/03/2013

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*.