

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC359818
Inspection date	07/02/2014
Inspector	Julian Parker
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	11/07/2013
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Service information

Brief description of the service

The home is one of a group of homes operated by an independent organisation as part of a tendering contract with the local council. This home provides care and accommodation for up to four 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 **good progress**.

The judgement at the last full inspection of this home was good. Four requirements were made concerning improvements to the maintenance of the building with a focus upon furnishings and fire protection, consulting with the fire authority about changes in the positioning of fire prevention appliances and keeping the case records of young people up to date. A recommendation relating to the frequency of management monitoring identified an additional area for improvement. The inspection identified that despite these minor shortfalls positive outcomes for young people are consistently promoted.

Since the last inspection, the registered manager and staff team have made all of the necessary improvements to the areas of practice identified.

On-going repair and redecoration of the home is improving the physical environment in which young people live. Through consultation young people's views about the appearance of the home influence decisions about colour schemes for communal and their own personal areas. New furniture and soft furnishings that colour coordinate

are chosen by the staff and young people help to brighten the home up. In this way young people demonstrate the home is a place they like and feel attached to. Some aspects of the building such as the main entrance doors continue to present a poor first impression because of their worn and damaged appearance.

Since the previous inspection repairs to fire doors and liaison with the local fire service have improved fire prevention in the home. Visits and talks from the Fire Service have raised fire safety awareness with young people enhancing their understanding of and response to the dangers involved with fire.

Systems have been introduced by the managers to monitor the consistency and content of recording in young people's case files. These systems have brought about improvements in understanding and practice because staff know what is expected. A shortfall exists where the manager has yet to receive an updated care plan for a recently admitted child from a social worker.

The staff team have made significant improvement with re-engaging all of the resident young people in education placements, or training schemes, since the last inspection. The placing authority stakeholders recognise this achievement by awarding a certificate acknowledging progress. Similarly supervising social workers of children in placement have been very complimentary in their feedback to the home. One social worker when asked about the home said it was 'Excellent, I'm really pleased with the service staff offer. My young person has shown significant progress since being at the home; I am really pleased with the support offered by staff.'

Clear behaviour management plans, underpinned by consistent staff practice and individualised praise has resulted in greater stability and gradually improving outcomes for each young person. Although some young people can present difficult and unsafe behaviours, such as going missing from the home, staff know that they must follow safeguarding and behaviour management procedures diligently. They regularly review young people's risk assessments and behaviour management plans to continuously reflect change, which currently identifies a gradual reduction in significant incidents. This process effectively reduces risk and helps keep young people safe.

Although there have been some complaints by young people since the last inspection improved levels of consultation and frequent access to independent visitors ensure that the voices of young people are always heard. The home actively supports young people to make known their opinions through placement planning, key working sessions and young people's meetings.

Interactions between the registered manager, staff and young people are extremely positive contributing to a clear vision for the further development of practice in the home. Staff present as being motivated and committed to delivering good quality care for young people. This means that they meet and manage the individual, sometimes complex needs of young people very well.

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
31 (2001)	ensure that all parts of the children's home used by children are: of sound construction and kept in good structural repair externally and internally by repairing / repainting damage to exterior doors (Regulation 31(2)(d))	31/03/2014

Recommendations

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

- ensure that Care Plans are updated by social workers following reviews to reflect detail and aims of current placement NMS 25.5

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*.