

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC359818
Inspection date	19/12/2012
Inspector	Michelle Spruce
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	16/05/2012
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Service information

Brief description of the service

The home is one of a group of homes operated by the same private organisation. Accommodation is provided for up to four children between the ages of 12 and 17, with emotional and 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 previous full inspection in May 2012, the overall effectiveness of the service was good. One requirement and one recommendation were made; both have been met.

The requirement was in relation to the manager monitoring the accident records; this has improved. Staff were given instruction on the importance of recording in the accident log any injuries sustained by young people following physical intervention. This means the appropriate records are clearly documented and maintained. Improvement was needed in the decoration of the home. The home has undergone significant re-decoration throughout and is now well presented with suitable soft furnishings and pleasant décor. This provides young people with a warm and welcoming environment.

The manager confirms there is a better electronic system in place to report health and safety issues to maintenance. For example, a recent record shows that the stair carpet has been reported due to presenting a tripping hazard. The manager confirms

that job requests are completed in priority of low, medium and high. However, records show a high priority risk has not been promptly rectified. For example, the upstairs bathroom window restrictor has been removed and there is no safe measure to close the window. This does not keep young people safe.

There have been recent changes to the dynamics of the young people placed. Some young people have moved on successfully and in-line with their placement and pathway plan. Others have benefitted from a short-term or emergency placement until a more suitable one was found. However, some young people placed are younger than the home can provide for in their Statement of Purpose. This has the potential to impact on the young person and others already placed in the home.

Some young people improve in education attendance but this is affected by the challenging behaviour of other peers in the home. This is because young people either become involved in incidents or have their sleep disturbed during the night making it difficult to get up to attend education. On a number of occasions, during some incidents of challenging behaviour, staff have removed fire extinguishers from their designated places and not all have been safely replaced. Additionally, the fire risk assessment has not been updated. This places staff and children at risk in the event of a fire because essential fire fighting equipment may not be easily accessible.

The home now benefits from a new Registered Manager who was previously the acting manager for some time. Staff now receive regular supervision and appraisal. However, the manager has not had an annual appraisal. This compromises the individual development and progression of the manager. The manager undertakes monitoring of the Schedule 6 matters and the quality of care on a regular basis. However, the registered person has not sent the report of the review of the quality of care to Ofsted in line with regulation.

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
11 (2001)	promote and make proper provision for the welfare of children accommodated there; specifically, that the home only provides admission to children whose age is in line with their Statement of Purpose (Regulation 11 (1)(a))	21/01/2013
23 (2001)	ensure all parts of the home to which children have access are so far as reasonably practicable free from hazards to their health or safety. Specifically, in relation to making safe the bathroom window (Regulation 23(a))	21/01/2013
27	ensure that all persons employed receive an appropriate	21/01/2013

(2001)	appraisal, including the manager (Regulation 27(4)(a))	
32 (2001)	consult with the fire and rescue authority and take adequate precautions against the risk of fire, including the provision of suitable fire equipment (Regulation 32(1))	21/01/2013
34 (2001)	supply to the HMCI a report in respect of any review conducted by him for the purposes of monitoring Schedule 6 matters and improving the quality of care provided in the children's home. (Regulation 34(2))	21/01/2013

Recommendations

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

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*.