

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC359846
Inspection date	27/01/2014
Inspector	Carole Moore
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	08/05/2013
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Service information

Brief description of the service

The home is one of a group of homes operated by the same organisation as part of a tendering contract with a Wolverhampton council. This home provides care and accommodation for up to five 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 previous inspection in May 2013 the home was judged to be good. Since that time they have made satisfactory progress overall, with some areas of improvement and some shortfalls. At the previous inspection requirements and recommendations were made relating to records, conditions of the home and evidencing that young people can access their records and make comment should they choose to do so.

Actions have also been set relating to a particular complaint which took place in August 2013 and these have also been addressed in this inspection. These actions relate to issues around safeguarding, training, experience of staff and notifications.

The Registered Manager has a new system in place to monitor all records on a daily basis and this ensures staff practice is up to date and all records completed. Young people are actively encouraged to sign their records and make comment should they wish to do so. This ensures that records are clear and helpful should the young person wish to access their records now or in the future.

The home has had some improvement to the overall décor and a new kitchen has been installed, decoration to the lounge and games room giving this area a good homely feel. Bedroom door locks have been replaced ensuring young people's privacy. However, there is still a clinical look about the bathrooms. The hall, stairs and landing areas are extremely tired looking. This requirement will therefore be restated.

Fire drills are now taking place at different times of the day and the home experienced a live fire drill at the beginning of the year. All young people were made aware of the dangers of fire and the need for quick evacuation. Daily records demonstrated that each young person had been involved with the drill. However this particular drill was not entered into the fire log. Therefore this requirement will be restated. Following the incident of a fire, all systems within the home have been checked by the fire service and all devices tested. The fire risk assessment has been updated and the home are considering a sprinkler system to provide more safety precautions.

The other actions set are in relation to safeguarding. Staff work hard to ensure young people's safety. There is a safeguarding policy which has been shared with the Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB) and a policy relating to self-harm. Training in relation to self-harm and mental health has been undertaken by all staff ensuring that they are understanding of these conditions and are competent to protect young people who self-harm or who may present mental health difficulties.

The frequency with which young people at the home go missing had decreased. However, since the previous inspection in October 2013 there has been an increase. Young people's risk assessments include details of the risks of young people being missing and the action that should be taken when this occurs. Staff are able to describe the actions they need to take. Staff have worked well with the police to get a more planned and appropriate response to young people going missing. While this provides better safeguards for young people, they do continue to be at risk when they are missing. Staff will attempt to follow young people and to look for them. Consideration is given to the reasons young people go missing and attempts are made to divert them from this course of action, but these do not always work.

There have been numerous notifications since the last inspection and these have all been appropriately notified to Ofsted. Some of these notifications have resulted in the termination of a placement but this was due to safeguarding other young people in their care.

Since the previous inspection, the home has continued to provide a good level of care for young people who have complex needs. The new Registered Manager has a clear focus on improving the standard of care. The new daily record checks include debriefing staff when they have had to manage some very complex situations. They think about each young person as an individual as well as the group dynamics. They then consider what could have been done differently. This helps staff to consider and

improve their practice to provide improved outcomes for young people. There is a good level of training and consultation for staff and a focus on improvement.

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
32 (2001)	ensure, by means of fire drills and practices at suitable intervals, that the persons working at the home and, so far as is practicable, children accommodated there, are aware of the procedure to be followed in case of fire, particularly in relation to record keeping (Regulation 32(1)(e))	03/03/2014
31 (2001)	ensure that all areas of the home are of sound construction and kept in good structural repair, kept clean and reasonably decorated and maintained, specifically relating to the decoration and fabric of the hall, stairs, landing and bathrooms.(Regulation 32(1)(d)(e))	07/04/2014

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*.