

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	08/01/2013
Inspector	Elaine Cray
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	20/08/2012
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Service information

Brief description of the service

This home is part of a private children's care organisation and is registered to accommodate two young people 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 **good progress**.

The home was judged as good at the last full inspection which took place in August 2012. It is judged to be making good progress following this interim inspection. There were two recommendations and one statutory requirement made as a result of the last inspection. All have been met.

Records about young people's clothing allowances are now available. Young people sign the records and they are fully aware of how much they receive and can account for how much they spend.

Procedures for the safe administration of medication are improved as a result of staff training being refreshed. Young people's health is promoted and protected with safe and effective procedures for the storage and administration of medication.

Young people's opportunities to explore and develop skills relevant to growing up and becoming more independent are also improved. Young people are supported with written plans and practical support to enable them to prepare for independence.

Staff are pragmatic in enabling young people to understand the transition from

adolescence to young adulthood. Young people are steadily and progressively moving towards a greater awareness of the importance of developing a more mature attitude. They are developing an understanding of promoting personal safety and respecting the welfare of others, as a result of closely monitored risk assessment and management strategies.

Young people of all ages and abilities learn and develop because they are cared for by a responsive and sensitive staff team. Staff understand the different ways young people express their needs and understanding. This awareness positively impacts on the complex nature of some young people's needs. The quality of care is further improved with recent staff training in understanding autism.

The welfare and safety of some young people is often compromised by some significant risk taking and challenging behaviours. While some complex and challenging behaviours persist, there is an overall reduction in risk taking activities. Safeguarding strategies and behaviour support are facilitated with a strong commitment to multi-agency work. Some young people's safety needs are supported by a variety of agencies, including the child and adolescent mental health team, youth offending services and the police.

Monitoring patterns and trends in behaviour is particularly useful in developing behaviour strategies and improving young people's behaviour. The majority of records show that physical restraint is used as a last resort. However the pragmatic approaches used by staff to manage some very unpredictable and complex behaviours is not clear in young people's most recent behaviour management plans.

Young people continue to make good educational, social and emotional progress because they receive good quality care. They develop in confidence and have a greater emotional resilience and they are supported with appropriate family contact. Joint working between staff, young people and professionals is successful because young people are placed at the centre of the framework for care and safeguarding their welfare. Young people attend and do well in education; they enjoy a range of activities and maintain meaningful relationships with staff.

The Registered Manager and staff continue to maintain and improve outcomes for young people and the standards of care in the home. Young people have a positive view of the home and value their relationships with staff. They are looked after by trained staff who understand procedures and implement a well-managed framework of care to the young people. Staff development and monitoring processes are effective and contribute to the on-going development of 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 details about the home's policy on the use of physical restraint as a last resort is accurately and meaningfully reflected young people's records. (NMS 22.5)

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*.