

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC362965
Inspection date	09/02/2012
Inspector	Maureen Hamer
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	12/10/2011
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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 (March 2011)*.

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.

Service information

Brief description of the service

This children's home is operated by a national independent children's services provider. The home is registered to accommodate children and young people who have emotional and behavioural difficulties. In particular, they may have a history of trauma, abuse or family breakdown. Short to medium-term placements may be offered. Several staff hold qualifications in counselling and the home is supported by a registered psychotherapist.

Progress

Since their previous inspection the service is judged to be making **good** progress.

This home was judged as good at its last full inspection. The home demonstrates continued improvements in young people's outcomes and capacity to improve.

Young people attend local educational establishment and show improvements for example in literacy. Support has been provided to successfully access local voluntary work to enable the young people to develop work related skills such as team work and customer services.

Staff work with other professionals to ensure that young people are provided with appropriate advice to promote their well-being and to effectively manage health concerns.

Young people invite friends to the home normalising their lives and providing a positive social network. Contact with family is encouraged on a regular basis through visits and use of the telephone to support ongoing meaningful relationships. Staff work as an effective team and provide a consistent and positive approach which has shown improvements in positive behaviour and reduced aggressive and anti-social behaviour.

Staff state that they feel very well supported. Regular supervision is in place to enable them to provide good quality care to young people. Team meetings are focused on reviewing the young person's needs and providing staff with an opportunity to reflect on their practice. Additional support is gained at team meetings from the organisation's psychologist to promote effective approaches to support the promotion of positive behaviour.

At the last inspection requirements were made to ensure that care plans are appropriately signed and this has been acted upon. In addition, the home's Statement of Purpose was not comprehensive; this has been updated but is still in draft form, this shortfall does not impact on young people. Recommendations include updating the children's guide this too is in draft form but has improved. Staff

supervision is now undertaken on a regular basis.

External quality assurance monitoring is not being completed on a regular basis. However, the internal monitoring is in place and is evaluative. The views of young people, parents and the placing authority are sought but they are not systematically used to inform the strengths and weaknesses of the service.

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
33 (2001)	ensure that visits are made to the home in accordance with Regulation 33 and that the visits take place once a month (Regulation 33 (1-5))	27/04/2012
34 (2001)	supply to the HMCI a report in respect of any review conducted of matters set out in schedule 6. Provide for consultation with children accommodated in the home, their parents and placing authorities (Regulation 34 (2) (3))	27/04/2012
4 (2001)	compile in relation to the children's home a written statement which shall consist of a statement as to matters listed in Schedule 1. (Regulation 4) (1))	27/04/2012

Recommendations

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

- update the children's guide as to how a child can contact their Independent Reviewing Officer, the Children's Rights Director and Ofsted if they wish to raise a concern with inspectors. (NMS 13.5)