

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC366343
Inspection date	17/02/2012
Inspector	Alicea Churchward
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	27/10/2011
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Service information

Brief description of the service

This home is a detached property situated in a residential area. It is the only children's home owned by a private provider. The home is registered to provide care and accommodation to four children 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.

At the last full inspection in October 2011, the home was found to be outstanding. At that time, the provider and Registered Manager were asked to take account of a requirement and two recommendations to improve further the quality of care in the home. The purpose of this visit was to assess the progress made since the last inspection and how any progress has improved the quality of care and outcomes for young people.

At the time of the last inspection, a small gap was evident in a staff recruitment file. Swift remedial action was taken to ensure that a written explanation of the gap was placed in the file. At the time of this inspection, a new staff member's file was inspected and showed it fully meets with regulation.

The behaviour management policy has been revised to include strategies used in the home. Young people are encouraged to have their views recorded in the records kept by the home. However, many gaps remain in the sanctions record and young people's views are not routinely recorded. In addition, this shortfall has not been addressed in the Registered Manager's monthly monitoring of the records. The use of

restraint is very low despite some periods of challenging behaviour. The use of diffusion works well and staff have received training to intervene if necessary.

Activities and behaviour contracts have been discussed with the young people. They all have individual interests, as well as enjoying activities provided by the home, and young people are clear about boundaries and expectations of positive behaviour which is rewarded with incentives.

There is good evidence that the home continues to work with young people to further develop their understanding of equality and diversity. The staff challenge stereotypes and help young people understand the potential consequences in relation to the use of homophobic language.

During this inspection there was evidence that a significant event had taken place; this was not notified to Ofsted and as a result, a requirement was made.

The home has demonstrated continued improvement in the quality of care and outcomes for children and young people and has addressed the requirement and one of the two recommendations that were raised at the previous inspection. The home is making good progress.

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
30 (2001)	ensure that Ofsted is notified about any significant events, without delay. (Regulation 30 (1))	31/03/2012

Recommendations

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

- ensure that where any sanctions, disciplinary measures or restraint are used, children are encouraged to have their views recorded in the records kept by the home (NMS 3.18)
- ensure that sanctions records are regularly monitored by the Registered Manager for their effectiveness. (NMS 21.2)

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)*.