

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC366343
Inspection date	21/11/2012
Inspector	Alicea Churchward
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	10/07/2012
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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**.

The purpose of this visit is to assess the progress made since the time of the last inspection and how any progress has improved the quality of care and outcomes for young people. The last full inspection was undertaken in July 2012; the home was then found to be outstanding. At that time, the provider and Registered Manager were asked to take account of recommendations to improve further the quality of care in the home.

Since that time progress has been good; the staff and management team work hard in some challenging circumstances with individual young people in their care. Young people are very positive about the quality of care and their relationships with staff in the home.

At the time of the last visit two recommendations were made in relation to sanctions records; the records have improved and more comments are included by young people; however some gaps in recording young people's views remain evident. The manager regularly monitors and signs the sanctions record for effectiveness. In one section of the record it is not clear why a sanction was applied.

Staff are also very positive about their work and the young people in their care. Additionally they say that they receive good support and training to undertake their role. They are clear about their responsibilities in protecting and safeguarding the welfare of young people and the organisations whistle blowing procedures.

Monitoring of the home is effective both registered provider visits to the home and regular manager's monitoring provide good oversight and demonstrate thorough monitoring. There is a good development plan for the home which is realistic and challenging.

Areas for development identified during this visit include continued improvements in the sanctions record. Obtaining pathway plans for those young people who are required to have one; to assist young people in their planning for leaving care.

Further improvements are required to independent provider reports to the home. This is in respect of missing reports. In addition the reports reflecting that staff and young people are given the option of speaking with the visitor in private, if they wish and consulting parents (where appropriate and in line with individual care plans) about the operation of the home. There are no breaches of regulations or failures to meet national minimum standards that impact negatively on the welfare or safety of young people.

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 Regulation 33 reports clearly state that interview, with their consent and in private, such of the children accommodated there, their parents, relatives and persons working at the home as appears necessary in order to form an opinion of the standard of care provided in the home (Regulation 33 (4)(a))	31/01/2013
17B (2001)	ensure that the sanctions record contains details of the child's behaviour leading to the use of the measure in all cases. (Regulation 17B (3)(b))	31/12/2012

Recommendations

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

- ensure that reports of visits to the home carried out under Regulation 33 include relevant checks set out, including records of missing person's reports (NMS 21.7)
- obtain a copy and contribute to the development of each child's pathway plan for "eligible" care leavers and work collaboratively with the young person's social worker or personal adviser in implementing the plan (NMS 12.2)
- 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)

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)*.