

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC368637
Inspection date	25/03/2014
Inspector	Janet Hunnam
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	13/11/2013
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Service information

Brief description of the service

The home is registered to provide care and accommodation for up to three young people who have emotional and/or behavioural difficulties. Education in line with the national curriculum is available at an external school maintained by the home. The home is run by a partnership company.

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 previous inspection in November 2013, the home was judged as adequate overall. Five requirements were made and one recommendation and these have all been met.

The previous inspection noted concern relating to the appropriateness of withholding takeaway meals and snack treats as a form of sanctions. The home has clarified this with staff and such sanctions are no longer used.

Two requirements related to the systems for administering medication. New systems for recording the administration of medication are now in place that include recording of the actual stock level. Staff audit these stock levels daily and check for discrepancies against the medication administration records. These checks are completed on each shift handover and records checked regularly by managers to ensure they are accurate. Thus suitable arrangements for the safe administration of medication are in place and managers have an effective system for auditing these systems.

The home has improved its systems for recording young people's pocket money and how it has been spent. Records clearly document each young person's pocket money, what they have spent, any deductions made to recompense the home for damage and the balance remaining. These records are monitored by managers. The home is now demonstrating that staff are keeping young people's valuables safely.

Since the last inspection, the home has promptly notified Ofsted of significant events ensuring the regulator is kept up-to-date on actions taken by the home to safeguard young people. The home has also amended the job description for the senior member of staff who has responsibility for the day-to-day running of the home when the Registered Manager is not present to clarify their responsibilities.

Young people continue to receive high standards of care at the home, experience positive relationships with staff and most young people are making excellent progress. When young people are not responding to the support provided, managers seek the advice and guidance of specialist, external professionals to meet young people's individual needs.

Staff use physical intervention infrequently as part of behaviour management strategies. However, some recent restraints have involved staff holding young people on the floor. Staff are trained in the safe use of physical intervention but have not received training to ensure safe practice in ground restraint. There have also been some instances where staff have escorted a young person from a room and it has not been clearly recorded that the physical intervention was justified in terms of the risk of serious harm or serious damage to property. Detailed risk assessments and positive handling plans are in place but are not updated promptly following an identified increase in the risk of potential harm.

Areas for improvement

Recommendations

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

- ensure restraint is not used as a punishment nor to force compliance with instructions where significant harm or serious damage to property are not otherwise likely (NMS 3.14)
- ensure that staff are trained in the use of physical restraint techniques, in particular that staff are trained in safe methods of ground restraint (NMS 3.15)
- ensure that staff actively promote the welfare of children living at the home, in particular ensure risk assessments are reviewed and updated to reflect the changing needs of individual young people. (NMS 4.1)

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*.