

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC369825
Inspection date	13/03/2012
Inspector	Louise Redfern
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	27/10/2011
--------------------------------	------------

© Crown copyright 2012

Website: www.ofsted.gov.uk

This document may be reproduced in whole or in part for non-commercial educational purposes, provided that the information quoted is reproduced without adaptation and the source and date of publication are stated.

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 registered to provide care and accommodation for two young people of either gender with emotional and/or behavioural difficulties. The home is operated by the local authority.

Progress

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

At the previous full inspection in December 2011 the overall effectiveness of the service was judged as satisfactory, with three requirements and two recommendations made. The Registered Manager and staff team have addressed two of requirements and both recommendations have been met.

The Registered Manager ensures that all notifications are well managed and that all appropriate parties are notified of significant events, including Ofsted, ensuring young people's welfare is not compromised.

External complaints are always responded to in line with the home's policy and guidance. All records of community complaints are now centrally held in the central complaints log. This means outcomes are fully explored and recorded in one central log, which consequently ensures that there is no impact on young people.

The Registered Manager has failed to ensure that the staff team consistently implements the homes policy on medication. For example, the medication policy states how to record the receipt and disposal of medication; however, this does not happen in practice. Potentially this compromises young people's welfare and does not ensure practice is accountable.

Young people are supported in managing their behaviour through positive reward, praise and sanctions. They now benefit from being encouraged to have their views recorded for each episode of reward, praise and sanction, ensuring they have an understanding of each measure imposed. However, records of sanctions and their effectiveness are not recorded in full; there is no evaluation by the Registered Manager and staff team as to whether the consequence remains appropriate and effective.

The staff team play an active role in developing independence packages, which helps young people in their transition to adulthood. Young people are encouraged and supported to take part in developing their life skills, for instance budgeting for their weekly food shopping, cooking and housework.

There have been improvements in the décor of the home, young people have benefitted from redecoration of their bedrooms, new carpets, new furniture and a new car has been purchased. They live in a home that is managed by a dedicated Registered Manager and staff team.

This inspection identifies some weaknesses in record keeping and the potential impact on young people. However, young people continue to remain the focus within the home and receive good care.

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
17B (2001)	ensure that any measure of control includes a review of the effectiveness of the measure used (Regulation 17B)(3)(f))	06/04/2012
29 (2001)	maintain in the children's home the records specified in Schedule 4 and ensure that they are kept up to date; specifically item 5 of that Schedule. (Regulation 29 (1))	06/04/2012

Recommendations

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