

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC372117
Inspection date	12/02/2014
Inspector	Helen Walker
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	15/05/2013
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Service information

Brief description of the service

This is one of a number of children's homes operated by a private company. The home is registered to provide care and accommodation for up to two young people who may need support 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 **inadequate progress**.

At the last full inspection in May 2013 this home was judged good overall. At this inspection the home is judged to be making inadequate progress.

The home has addressed one of the two recommendations made at the last inspection. Young people now have access to an independent visitor. They have information readily available to enable them to contact the visitor directly. This gives them the opportunity to discuss with an independent person any problems or issues of concern they might have.

The home continues to be in poor decorative order as a result of young people's anti-social behaviour. Many of the internal walls in the home are splattered and stained with food. Furnishings are damaged, for example, three out of four dining chairs are broken. This means only one dining chair is available at the dining table. Fitted furniture has significant damage such as in the kitchen and hallway of the home. Externally, the house guttering is leaking which causes flooding on the uneven paving stones near to the kitchen door. Additionally, there is no working external

light in this area. Therefore, the flooded uneven path is a potential hazard to those who use it, especially during the hours of darkness.

Staff have a clear understanding of their safeguarding duties and strive to keep young people safe. They are looked after by a caring, consistent and experienced staff group. However, young people who come to live at the home have a range of needs that often manifest in challenging and anti-social behaviour. There have been a number of times when police have been called to the home in respect of young people's behaviour. On occasions this resulted in young people's arrest for criminal behaviour. This home environment is unsettling for young people and does not positively promote their welfare.

There have been instances of young people missing from the home and their whereabouts unknown. Staff follow the home's missing from home protocol to enable young people's swift and safe return to the home. Staff initially look in the vicinity to locate the young people. Staff have endeavoured to reduce these episodes and for some young people this has been successful, thereby supporting their wellbeing.

Staff proactively encourage and support young people to keep appointments with health professionals. There are instances of young people who fail keep the appointments or maintain contact with health professionals. For some young people this has significant health implications relating to their physical wellbeing. Their placement plan and health plan compiled by the home is considerably out of date. There is no holistic approach to ensure one person has responsibility and overview so that young people's health needs are consistently met.

Staff value education for young people and recognise the importance of this for their development and future. Education is tailored to meet the individual needs of young people who live in this home. However, progress in this area is limited when some young people choose to disengage from education.

Relationships between the young people and staff are on occasions strained. Staff try and implement routines and consistent boundaries in the home but this is with little success. An exception to this relates to one young person who regularly attends college one day a week. This helps to promote learning for their adult life. Most young people choose to spend the majority of their day in their bedroom and have minimal positive interaction with staff.

Three requirements and four shortfalls in meeting the National Minimum Standards for Children's Homes are raised as a result of this inspection.

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
11 (2001)	ensure that the children's home is conducted so as to promote and make proper provision for the safeguarding and welfare of children accommodated there, and make proper provision for the care, education, supervision and support of children accommodated (Regulation 11 (1)(a)(b))	13/03/2014
31 (2001)	ensure that all parts of the children's home used by children are of sound construction and kept in good structural repair externally and internally, and kept clean and reasonably decorated and maintained (Regulation 31 (2)(d)(e))	13/03/2014
23 (2001)	ensure all parts of the home to which children have access are so far as reasonably practicable free from hazards to their health or safety, in particular the footpath adjacent to the house. (Regulation 23 (a))	20/03/2014

Recommendations

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

- ensure that young people attend school, college or alternative provision regularly (NMS 8.3)
- ensure the registered manager exercises effective leadership of the home's staff and operation, such that the home is organised, managed and staffed in a manner that delivers sound, good quality care that meets the individual needs of each child at the home (NMS 14.5)
- ensure each child's placement plan is monitored by a key worker within the home who ensures that the requirements of the plan are implemented in the day-to-day care of that child, in particular the health needs of the child (NMS 25.2)
- ensure children's health is promoted in accordance with their placement plan and staff are clear about what responsibilities and decisions are delegated to them. (NMS 6.5)

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*.