

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC372611
Inspection date	24/01/2014
Inspector	Pete Hylton
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 privately operated children's home is registered to provide care and accommodation for up to two young people with emotional and 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**.

This home was last inspected in May 2013 and was judged to be good. Three recommendations were made. The Registered Manager left the home in August 2013 and an acting manager has been in post since that point. All required actions regarding the registration of the new manager have been taken and a registration decision will be shortly be made.

The organisation ensures that monthly monitoring visits take place to the home. These visits identify any areas of development and seek the views of young people. This ensures that young people can discuss the home and raise any concerns or complaints. Although the visits happen on a monthly basis, reports from these visits are not always sent to Ofsted. As a result, the regulator is not fully able to review the operation of the home. There is no demonstrable impact, to date, on the outcomes for young people. However, a requirement has been made to address this shortfall.

There have been no incidents of restraint since the last inspection. Young people are encouraged to display positive behaviour. The use of incentives and rewards

supports young people in developing their emotional resilience. Sanctions are fair and appropriately recorded. Furthermore, the views of young people are consistently sought and recorded. As a result, young people are able to discuss incidents of socially unacceptable behaviour and reflect on their actions. The recommendation from the last inspection has therefore been met.

Young people attend school with some regularity. However, where young people refuse to access school, inconsistent approaches by the staff team mean that education is not fully promoted. For example, there is no clear direction for staff about how to support young people when they refuse education. As a result, young people are able to stay in bed, watch television and listen to music during the school day. The lack of structure and routine means that the benefits of educational attendance are not promoted. This negatively impacts on the outcomes for young people as opportunities to further educational attainment are missed. The recommendation made at the last inspection has not been met. A requirement has been made to address this shortfall.

The home's Statement of Purpose is up to date and contains all required information. Staffing changes are reflected in the document and the home's objectives are clearly defined. However, since the last inspection, the Statement of Purpose has been changed and not sent to Ofsted as required. This does not affect the outcomes for young people. A requirement has been made to address the shortfall.

Young people report that they are happy at the home. They enjoy spending time with the staff team and live in a home that is comfortable and homely. Regular fire drills ensure that young people and staff know how to safely evacuate the home in the event of fire. Regular servicing of the fire equipment ensures that the systems in the home protect young people from the risk of fire. Regular checks of the environment ensure that any defects are swiftly identified. However, a defective emergency light was not repaired for five days. There is no demonstrable impact on the outcomes for young people as a result of this delay. Nevertheless, young people's safety was potentially compromised as a result. A requirement has been made to ensure that the home is suitably maintained.

Young people's files contain all required information. Furthermore, the views and wishes of the placing authority are clearly stated in young people's placement plans. As a result, agreed actions and objectives are recorded and known to staff in the home. However, the acting manager does not ensure that the agreed aims of the placement are consistently followed and acted upon. For example, where young people are to be encouraged to reduce their smoking, this is not consistently applied. As a result, young people's welfare is not fully promoted as they are not protected from the harmful effects of smoking. Consequentially, this impacts on the health outcomes for young people. Key working sessions do not routinely discuss health issues and there is no other recorded evidence of preventative work around the dangers of smoking. This means that young people live in a home where their health and welfare is not fully supported or promoted. A requirement has been made to address this shortfall.

The acting manager completes regular audits of the home and uses this information to identify areas for development. However, this monitoring does not include consultation with young people, parents or placing authorities as required by regulation. As a result, the acting manager is unable to fully review and evaluate the service given by the home. Furthermore, the acting manager has not sent a copy of this monitoring to Ofsted as recommended from the last inspection. Two requirements, relating to consultation and sending Regulation 34 reports to Ofsted have been made.

As a result of this inspection, seven requirements have been made to address shortfalls in the quality of care, leadership of the home and young people's welfare and safety. This means that the home is judged to be making inadequate 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
5 (2001)	review and, where appropriate, revise the statement of purpose and the children's guide and notify HMCI of any such revision within 28 days (Regulation 5 (a)&(b))	10/03/2014
11 (2001)	ensure that the children's home is conducted so as to promote and make proper provision for the welfare of children accommodated there and make proper provision for the care, education, supervision and, where appropriate, treatment, of children accommodated there (Regulation 11 (1) (a)&(b))	10/03/2014
18 (2001)	ensure that the routine of the home is organised so as to further children's participation in education, including regular attendance at school and participation in school activities of children of compulsory school age, regular attendance at college where applicable and private study (Regulation 18 (1) (b))	10/03/2014
31 (2001)	ensure that all parts of the children's home used by children are kept clean and reasonably decorated and maintained (Regulation 32 (2) (e))	10/03/2014
33 (2001)	supply a copy of the report required to be made under paragraph (4)(c) to HMCI (Regulation 33 (5) (a))	10/03/2014
34 (2001)	supply to HMCI a report in respect of any review conducted by him for the purposes of paragraph (1) (Regulation 34 (2))	10/03/2014
34 (2001)	ensure that the system referred to in paragraph (1) shall provide for consultation with children accommodated in the home, their parents and placing authorities. (Regulation 34 (3))	10/03/2014

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*.