

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC373958
Inspection date	07/03/2012
Inspector	Keith Riley
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	24/08/2011
--------------------------------	------------

© 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 home is registered to provide care for up to four young people who have emotional and behavioural difficulties. The home is managed by a local authority.

Progress

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

At the last inspection in August 2011 the home was judged to be good for overall effectiveness. There were three requirements and one recommendation made. These have all been met.

The risk of young people going missing is assessed and strategies to minimise the risk are developed. There is an adequate procedure that is followed should a young person go missing. Staff report a good relationship with the local police. This means that young people are kept as safe as possible when absent from the home without authority. Young people talk to someone independent of the home upon their return. This means young people are able to express themselves and further strategies can be developed to minimise recurrence.

Staff receive regular training which focuses on the protection of young people. The manager ensures that all the relevant agencies are informed of any safeguarding issues. This ensures that strategies and plans can be developed in the event of any concerns being identified. There are appropriate responses to allegations or suspicions of harm. However, these do not comprehensively cover how young people and staff are supported and protected while investigations are taking place; this means that those involved are not fully supported. Child protection investigations are not being notified to Ofsted.

The number of incidents requiring physical intervention is very low. Adequate records are kept in accordance with the regulations and these are reviewed by the management. Staff use sanctions as a measure of control and discipline. These are generally restorative; young people say they are fair and proportionate. The management review the effectiveness of such measures. On some occasions incidents are serious enough for the police to be called to the home. These incidents are not being notified to Ofsted in accordance with the regulations.

The home is well maintained and physically secure. It has been decorated to a high standard since the last inspection. Regular health and safety checks ensure the standard is maintained. Fire detection equipment is checked regularly. Although there are exits to the front and rear of the property, a fire exit from the side of the home into the garden was found to be locked during the inspection. This would

prevent young people and members of staff using this identified exit in an emergency. Other exits are locked during the night and a key is required to open them. There is a risk assessment in place and the management have confirmation from the fire and rescue service this is acceptable practice.

An application has been received by Ofsted to register the manager.

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
30 (2001)	ensure if any of the events listed in column 1 of the table in Schedule 5 takes place, the registered person shall without delay notify the persons indicated in respect of the events in column 2 of the table, in particular the instigation and outcome of any child protection enquiry and any serious incident necessitating calling the police to the home, are notified to Ofsted (Regulation 30 (1))	27/04/2012
32 (2001)	ensure, after consultation with the fire and rescue authority, there is adequate means of escape, in particular all fire exits can be accessed during the daytime without the use of a key. (Regulation 32 (1)(b))	27/04/2012

Recommendations

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

- ensure investigations into allegations or suspicions of harm are handled fairly, quickly, and consistently in a way that provides effective protection for the child, and at same time supports the person who is the subject of the allegation. (NMS 20.8)