

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	22/01/2014
Inspector	Liz Driver
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	05/06/2013
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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.

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 last inspection in June 2013, the home was judged as being good; one recommendation was made and this has been addressed. All records of medication administration now show improved consistency in practice of staff signing for the medication administered. In addition enhanced daily monitoring procedures implemented result in improved practices and ensures safe medication administration for young people.

The home continues to promote young people's outcomes to a good standard. In particular the home has ensured very close liaison with schools that the young people attend and will advocate for the young people to ensure they receive the best and most appropriate educational placement. Attendance at school is positively promoted with good attendance levels.

The home has built on its relationships with other agencies; such as the local police, and this has had a significant impact on changing the behaviours of the young people and the young people's relationships with other professionals who they may have previously seen in a negative way. The number of incidents of missing from the home has recently decreased and young people are not putting themselves at risk in

the community as much as they were. In addition much support is being offered to young people around child sexual exploitation and self-esteem. This has encouraged shared and consistent approaches to be put in place which in turn has enabled the young people's confidence to grow and gain a better insight into the impact their behaviours have. The setting is very aware of the links between missing children and sexual exploitation and this is enhanced by the registered manager attending regular multi professional meetings held by the local authority where incidents of missing children are addressed; these meetings now include the risk of sexual exploitation. This ensures young people are receiving the most appropriate care and are accessing professionals who can offer expert support and guidance, and that they are accommodated at the best setting able to meet their needs.

Records are of a high quality overall. All records relating to child protection and safeguarding are in place; however they do not provide for ease when carrying out effective auditing and need to be better organised to ensure high standard and effective monitoring.

Staff provide young people with a homely experience. Young people continue to receive consistent and clear boundaries and high quality care and support. Relationships between young people and staff remain strong and nurturing.

Young people live in a home that is subject to robust health and safety procedures that ensure all parts of the home are free from risks and, where maintenance issues are addressed swiftly.

The home has responded well to providing health care for young people with specific health needs. Staff have received training from specialist health professionals to ensure they can manage individual health care needs. This ensures young people can be confident knowing staff understand their needs and can provide appropriate care including emergency care if needed.

The home is very well managed and has consistent leadership which has ambitious aspirations for the young people and expects very high standards from members of staff. High standard quality assurance procedures enable the home to make continued improvements however the resulting quality of care reports are not always submitted to Ofsted. This does not impact on the young people.

Areas for improvement

Recommendations

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

- ensure all quality of care reports, as stipulated in Regulation 34, are submitted to Ofsted; currently twice a year (NMS 21)
- ensure records kept are well maintained and better organised; specifically the child protection and safeguarding records. (NMS 22)

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*.