

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC378407
Inspection date	27/02/2014
Inspector	Monica Hargreaves
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	02/05/2013
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Service information

Brief description of the service

This is a privately run children's home. The home provides care and accommodation for one young person 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

At the last inspection in May 2013, the home was judged to be adequate overall, with good outcomes for young people. The home has not provided accommodation to children and young people for six months.

There has not been a Registered Manager at the home for more than 26 weeks. The organisation had originally appointed a manager who submitted an application for registration in October 2013. However, the applicant withdrew their application for valid reasons in January 2014. The organisation has now appointed a manager to this home. Ofsted will write to this individual in respect of their position.

Two requirements were made at the previous inspection. These related to the management and oversight of the home and staffing. The home has not been operational for some months and there has been no staff team in place. The manager has only very recently taken up her post and is not yet working at this home. Consequently, it has not been possible to evidence that these requirements have been met. The Managing Director of the organisation confirmed that there are suitably experienced and qualified staff identified to work in this home who are currently working elsewhere in the organisation.

A number of recommendations were also made at the previous inspection. These

related to leadership and monitoring of care in the home, choice of food for young people, their access to a computer, staff knowledge of the home's policies and young people's access to their guide to the service. As the home has not been operating for some months, there were no records available for this inspection and no staff or young people to consult. It was therefore not possible to evidence that these recommendations have been met and they are carried forward to the next inspection.

A recommendation about an aspect of the maintenance of the home was made at the last inspection. This related specifically to window restrictors and to a paved area in the garden at the rear of the home. Progress in relation to this was assessed at this visit. The home has been repaired and redecorated to a good standard overall. It is suitably furnished. Window restrictors have been fitted on some, but not all, of the first floor windows. The patio area in the garden has not yet been repaired and is still uneven. Consequently, this recommendation is not fully met and is carried forward. The manager confirmed during the visit that there is a plan in place to ensure that these repairs are completed.

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 the children's home is conducted so as to make proper provision for the welfare of children accommodated there (Regulation 11 (1)(a))	31/03/2014
25 (2001)	ensure there is at all times a sufficient number of suitably qualified, competent and experienced persons working at the home. (Regulation 25 (1))	31/03/2014

Recommendations

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

- ensure children exercise choice in the foods they eat and are able to prepare their own meals and snacks, within the limits that a reasonable parent would set (NMS 2.4)
- ensure children have easy and regular access to a computer to support their education (Volume 5, statutory guidance paragraph 2.120 and NMS 8.2)
- ensure all staff working at the home are able to consistently follow the home's

policies and procedures and action is taken to deal with any issues that arise, particularly relating to medication procedures (Volume 5, statutory guidance paragraph 3.23 and NMS 6.14)

- ensure avoidable hazards are removed as is consistent with a domestic setting (Volume 5, statutory guidance paragraph 2.64 and NMS 10.3). it was possible to assess the progress made to meet this recommendation
- 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 the child receives the children's guide at the point of placement and that the contents of the children's guide is explained to the child in a way that is accessible. (NMS 13.4)

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*.