

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC378407
Inspection date	31/01/2013
Inspector	Helen Walker
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	05/10/2012
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Service information

Brief description of the service

The children's home provides accommodation for one young person of either sex from 10 years to 17 years of age. The home is operated by a private organisation.

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 **satisfactory progress**.

At the last inspection, in October 2012, the overall effectiveness of the home was judged to be good. Since that inspection, the home has made satisfactory progress overall. The manager has successfully addressed the requirement and most of the recommendations made at the last inspection.

The manager now forwards the Regulation 34 reports to Ofsted to demonstrate how she intends to improve the quality of care provided. The organisation and monitoring of the home's records has much improved. This means that policies, procedures and other documents are readily available and accessible to those who require them.

Various rooms in the home, including the bathroom, have been redecorated. This greatly improves the home environment for young people.

Young people receive positive encouragement and reward for appropriate behaviours. This results in very few sanctions and no physical intervention. Records relating to sanctions are kept up to date and accurate, with a full account of the disciplinary measure given.

Young people's placement plans are informative and outline how their assessed needs are to be met. A range of risk assessments details the specific strategies that staff are to use to reduce the incidences of negative behaviour. However, some risk assessments routinely require staff to contact the police at times when young people's behaviour is difficult to manage. This results in unnecessary police involvement in managing behaviours.

Two recommendations from the last inspection have not been met. These have been escalated to requirements. The views of social workers and independent reviewing officers about the care of the young people in the home are still not routinely obtained.

The manager ensures that staff have access to training that enhances their individual skills to meet the young people's needs. This includes child protection training and understanding and recognising child sexual exploitation. However, some staff still have not received training to assist them to work with young people who have more specific care needs. The manager confirms that arrangements are in hand for the training to be delivered in the near future.

Staff promote young people's learning and support their daily attendance at college. Good communication between college and the home means that young people's education is well promoted. Staff are keen to develop young people's independence skills and have close liaison with social workers to ensure that transition plans are in place. Staff demonstrate a real commitment to ensuring that young people are well prepared for leaving care.

Two requirements and one recommendation have been made as a result of this inspection. These relate to staff training, consultation with placing authorities and behaviour management.

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
34 (2001)	establish a system for improving the quality of care provided in the children's home so that this provides for consultation with placing authorities (Regulation 34 (1)(b) and (3))	18/03/2013
27 (2001)	ensure that all persons employed at the home receive appropriate training to meet the needs of the children. (Regulation 27 (4))	18/03/2013

Recommendations

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

- reduce unnecessary police involvement in managing young people's behaviour. (NMS 3 and Volume 5, statutory guidance, paragraph 2.85)

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*.