

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC393567
Inspection date	19/01/2012
Inspector	Maureen Hamer
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	13/06/2011
--------------------------------	------------

© 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 located in a rural area but close to community services. It is an independent residential home that meets the needs of pupils who have behavioural, emotional and social difficulties between the ages of nine to 18 years. It operates as part of a group of children's homes and is also part of an education service provider. It provides accommodation for young people who attend the local associated residential special school.

The home aims to provide a homely caring environment. The focus is on building trusting relations and aims to provide each young person with the opportunity to develop their maximum potential through the delivery of an extended curriculum that is based on education and care.

Young people are provided with single bedrooms and communal space which includes a large kitchen/diner and two other reception areas. One of the young people's rooms has the facilities of a self-contained bedsit which can be used to support preparation for independent living.

There were five young people accommodated at the time of inspection.

Progress

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

This home has made good progress. The quality of care and outcomes for young people show continued improvements.

Young people say that they feel safe. Young people stated: 'Brilliant place really good staff nice they listen to you. I would like to retake maths and literature. I get support with my school work and they help me when I feel down. Staff listen to you and they will act on what you say. Anything I am worried about the staff act and help.'

Requirements identified at the last inspection have been acted upon ensuring that staff are experienced and trained to provide good quality care and to promote young people's welfare. There has been a reduction in the occurrence of young people going missing. Protocols and risk assessments for when young people go missing have been put in place and positive relationships with local police have been developed to safeguard young people. The Statement of Purpose has been updated to reflect the services being provided for young people.

Most of the recommendations have been met, improving the quality of care provided to young people. However the bathroom locks can be unlocked from the outside by young people, impacting on young people's sense of privacy.

Young people are very well engaged in their individual care planning and in-house discussions. Monitoring of the quality of care is undertaken on a regular basis but parents and placing authorities are not consulted as part of that process to identify service improvements.

Some young people are provided with education within the home and this compromises the available communal space. Some repair work has been completed on damage to the home's physical environment however some aspects are not well maintained impacting on its homely atmosphere.

Staff are provided with opportunities to up-date their knowledge to enable them to effectively support young people and to promote their welfare. Staff report that risk assessments and behaviour plans are well maintained. All episodes of physical intervention are documented and discussed at team meetings to ensure effective measures are taken to promote positive behaviour. Staff work as a good team, providing consistent care and boundaries for young people. This has had a positive impact on supporting young people to develop positive behaviours. Staff are expected to read all young people's risk assessments but there are times when this is not being acted upon leading to staff not always being up-to-date with behaviour management strategies. The manager is aware of this shortfall and is acting to ensure that risk assessments are well communicated to safeguard staff and young people from harm.

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
31 (2001)	ensure the home has adequate communal space to meet the needs of children accommodated; and achieve the aims and objectives set out in the statement of purpose (Regulation 31 (4) (a) (b))	30/03/2012
34 (2001)	include in the system for monitoring matters outlined in schedule 6 provision for consultation with children accommodated in the home, their parents and placing authority. (Regulation 34 (3))	30/03/2012

Recommendations

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

- maintain young people's privacy in their bedrooms and by the locks on bathrooms doors not being accessible to being opened by other young people (NMS 3.7)
- ensure that the home has a clear policy on managing behaviour, which includes supporting positive behaviour, de-escalation of conflicts, discipline, control and restraint, that all staff understand and apply at all times. (NMS 3.3)