

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	06/03/2014
Inspector	Anthony Kyem
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	26/09/2013
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Service information

Brief description of the service

This is a private home that provides care and accommodation for up to five young people of the same gender with emotional and/or behavioural difficulties. The home specialises in providing a therapeutic service for young people.

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**.

The purpose of this interim inspection was to look what progress the home has made since the last inspection and whether it has maintained the quality of young people's care. The home was judged to provide young people with good quality care at its previous full inspection. The home has made good progress, addressing all of the previous recommendations made.

The registered manager exercise strong and effective leadership of the home's operation. The performance of the home is monitored effectively and this includes consultation with young people about their care and welfare.

Pathways plans are now in place for most eligible care leavers but there are still a small minority of young people, who require them. The home undertakes high quality work with individual young people to build their self confidence and develop their practical skills, to enhance their independence. The response time to fire drills is now recorded and their effectiveness is monitored to ensure staff and young people know how to evacuate the premises quickly and safely.

Young people enjoy and achieve. Young people are engaged in full-time education to promote their learning and achievement. Young people benefit from excellent school attendance. Their educational achievement is exceptional and young people continue to make excellent educational progress. The standard and quality of teaching was judged outstanding at the previous inspection.

The quality of young people's private living accommodation is exceptional. The home provides young people with warm, well designed, homely and comfortable living accommodation. Careful attention is paid to the quality, standard and suitability of the physical environment. Young people's bedrooms, for example, are highly personalised and these are equipped with modern, high quality furniture in accordance with their individual needs and wishes.

Young people's positive behaviour is promoted and the use of restraints and sanctions, if used at all, are kept to an absolute minimum. There have been no restraints since the previous inspection. Staff share and implement the home's ethos, approach and philosophy, in caring for young people. They act as positive role models so young people have appropriate adults they can look up to and learn from.

Young people report, 'I have lived here for about four weeks. Everyone's really nice and I like being with other people of my own age. The staff are really nice and kind. The best thing is we all get along...The bike ride we all went on was hilarious... I really like school. Its nice and small and the teachers get it. Well, they understand you and you understand them.'

Young people rarely go missing from the home, if they do, there are effective procedures in place to promote their safe return. Staff adhere to safe working practice. The use of clear risk assessment, management and pro-active safeguarding practice ensure young people, including the most vulnerable, are protected from all forms of significant harm. Young people are protected from abuse, bullying, neglect and exploitation. All staff have recently attended refresher training on child protection.

There are no breaches in regulation. As a result, of this interim inspection there is only the one recommendation made. This relates to young people having pathway plans, if they require them.

Areas for improvement

Recommendations

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

- contribute to the development of each child's care plan, including a pathway plan for eligible care leavers (NMS 12.2)

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*.