

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC396104
Inspection date	21/01/2013
Inspector	Anthony Kyem
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	19/06/2012
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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 single 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 **satisfactory progress**.

The home was judged to provide young people with good quality care at its previous inspection. Satisfactory progress has been made in meeting most, but not all of the previous recommendations made. Young people now benefit from having their rights promoted more effectively. They have access to the information they need to enable them to raise any issues of concern. Young people's views about the sanctions used by staff are now recorded. However, the appropriateness of sanctions is not monitored effectively, to ensure that those used, are both fair and proportionate.

There are good systems in place for monitoring the home's performance. As a result, the quality of young people's care is reviewed and monitored effectively. The manager scrutinises the home's administration. However, Regulation 34 reports have not been submitted to Ofsted, within the timescales required. There is no written development plan for the home to promote its continuing development and improvement.

The home provides young people with a safe and secure environment. Health and

safety checks are kept up-to-date and there are regular fire drills held to ensure young people know how to evacuate the premises safely, in the event of fire. Staff are trained in child protection but they have not undertaken any training on child sexual exploitation. As a result, they may not be up-to-date with professional, legal and practice developments. Staff promote young people's safe return if they go missing. Comprehensive risk assessment and safe care practices ensure young people are protected from the risk of coming to harm.

As a result of this inspection, there are a small number of recommendations made for the registered person to consider. These relate to the appropriateness of sanctions, the manager devising a written development plan and submitting Regulation 34 reports to Ofsted, at six monthly intervals.

Areas for improvement

Recommendations

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

- ensure sanctions and rewards for behaviour are clear, reasonable and fair and are understood by all staff and children (NMS 3.8)
- ensure the home has a written development plan to sustain and/or improve the quality of young people's care (NMS 15.2)
- ensure that copies of Regulation 34 reports are sent to Ofsted at six monthly intervals. (Statutory Guidance Volume 5 paragraph 3.14)

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*.