

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC396721
Inspection date	07/12/2012
Inspector	Julian Parker
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	29/05/2012
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Service information

Brief description of the service

This children's home is operated by a private company and can accommodate and provide care for one young person who may have emotional and/or behavioural difficulties and/or learning disabilities. The company has its own school for children not attending mainstream education.

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 full inspection in May 2012, the overall quality rating for the service was judged as outstanding with three recommendations being made. Consistent practice and specific progress addressing recommendations for improving the quality of the homes Statement of Purpose, the young person's guide and the homes records of staff employed improve the homes accountability.

The health and psychological needs of young people remain very well met when considering their starting points while plateauing in their daily involvement contributing to their plans. On-going encouragement, while recognising young people's right to self-determination through age, assists young people to understand the importance of clinic attendance to ensure their longer-term health needs are safely met and potential risks reduced.

Sustained support from an attentive staff team help young people to achieve and maintain meaningful employment and enjoy setting personal goals such as taking

driving lessons.

Thorough on-going attention and statutory review of placement and independence plans reflect the staffs clear understanding of the current issues affecting the young person's life. By not always returning statutory review documents within the shortest timescale the placing authority creates unnecessary opportunity for misunderstanding by young people. The homes case records and review notes however mitigate this difficulty by providing a detailed picture of young people, setting out how they address individual needs in the most effective way to promote individuality and independence while ensuring their safety. The behaviour management aspects of care plans receive thorough reassessment following any change or infrequent incident. Active and meaningful risk assessments ensure that the homes low key style for the management of behaviour helps keep everyone safe.

Young people continue to enjoy a good consistency of care and generally demonstrate trusting relationships with staff. Staffing levels at the home remain appropriate to the placement size ensuring young people know which staff members are looking after them. Staff receive good support and regular supervision from the homes manager helping them deliver sensitive and constructive advice for young people beginning to test their age related independence boundaries and rights.

An effective range of management systems monitor the quality of care provided and the running of the home. Monthly checks of in house records enable the recently appointed Registered Manager to identify trends and patterns that inform potential improvements to practice. In addition to in-house systems, an independent person carries out regulation 33 monitoring visits, producing formal feedback reports that highlight any shortfalls. This helps staff reflect upon and improve their practice. Effective behaviour monitoring and liaison with in house therapists and other professionals help facilitate a meaningful review of young people's progress and effectiveness of care plans. Cumulatively these systems ensure that the placement is successful in promoting positive outcomes for young people.

Areas for improvement

Recommendations

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

- ensure that the result of all statutory review and reviews of placement plans are recorded on the child's file. This relates to requesting that the placing authority IRO return meeting minutes and update the plan within the shortest possible time. (NMS 25.8 Volume 5 Children's Home Guidance and Regulations Chapter 2 Paragraph 2.2)

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*.