

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC399586
Inspection date	10/01/2013
Inspector	Russell Shackford
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	28/09/2012
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Service information

Brief description of the service

This privately run home is registered to provide care for up to two young people with emotional or behavioural difficulties and/or with learning disabilities.

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**.

This home was judged as good at the full inspection and is judged to have made satisfactory progress at this interim inspection. The home has maintained quality of care and outcomes for children and has addressed the majority of recommendations made at the previous inspection. These were about the safe storage of medicines, risk management, staff training and monitoring of the quality of care at the home.

A new medicine cabinet has been installed to ensure that medicines are stored in line with best practice guidelines.

The domestic security arrangements at the home, which include the use of dead locks on the peripheral doors, have been revised. The new arrangements do not compromise young people's liberty or safety in the event of a fire at the home.

Some staff at the home have completed a level 3 qualification in working with children and young people or an equivalent, while all others are working towards completing it. Therefore, the target that all staff hold a level 3 qualification is not met.

The manager has amended the home's Statement of Purpose to ensure that it is up to date and accurate, in particular to show details of staffing levels in the home, the correct age range of the children upon admission to the home and comments relating to the confidentiality of records.

The manager has a system to monitor, report and evaluate the administration systems of the home. She has had discussions with other managers within the organisation about improving the recording and evaluation of her findings. However, the outcomes of those discussions have not yet been fully implemented and therefore recordings continue to be brief in detail and the findings are not fully evaluated. Therefore, there continues to be only adequate monitoring of the quality of care for the young people in the home.

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 all staff attain a minimum level 3 qualification (NMS 18.5)
- ensure there are effective procedures for monitoring and controlling the activities of the home. (NMS 21.1)

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*.