

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	19/01/2012
Inspector	Debbie Foster
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	24/08/2011
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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 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 ages of the young people accommodated are between 11 and 17 years.

The Statement of Purpose specifies medium to long-term placements are provided for young people.

Progress

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

At the last inspection in August 2011, the overall judgement for the effectiveness of the home was good. Young people are continuing to make progress in educational attendance, positive behaviour and increasing their independence skills which have brought about improved confidence and self esteem for them. A young person said 'I get on with all the staff and can talk to any of them,' and 'I am safe living here.'

One requirement and the majority of recommendations made at the last inspection have been met. An application to register a manager has been submitted to Ofsted. This is to ensure the regulation is met in this respect and a suitable person is in position to oversee the running of the home and to provide good care to young people.

Each young person's placement plan is monitored by the key worker within the home. This ensures that the requirements of the plan for the young person's day-to-day care are implemented to assist in them making progress in their lives. Behaviour plans for young people now specifically detail the strategies that the staff use with each young person. This is enabling all staff to constructively and consistently apply these to assist in developing continued positive behaviour with young people.

Risk assessments specifically detail the risks to the young person and how the staff are to reduce the risk whilst still keeping young people safe. Reference requests letters, which form part of the home's recruitment practices now specifically ask if the person is suitable to work with children and young people. This is to ensure the provider is thoroughly checking candidates to endeavour to keep young people safe. There is a sufficient number of staff working at the home to provide care to young people that meets their needs.

The manager has devised a development plan which sufficiently identifies planned changes in the operation or resources of the home to enhance and improve the service for young people in the next twelve months. The Statement of Purpose and children's guide have been reviewed and updated. This ensures that there is clear

information about what service the home will provide to young people in its care. The children's guide is in more than one format. This is to meet the diverse needs of young people with learning disabilities, to ensure they can understand the care and support they will receive whilst living at the home.

Two recommendations have not been implemented in full. Although, all new staff have commenced the level 3 Children and Young People diploma, not all have yet achieved this qualification to meet the recommended target of 100%. Staff have not received further specialist training relating to young people with learning disabilities and for all the specific conditions of young people currently living at the home. This does not ensure all staff are fully trained to meet the needs of the 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 all staff attain level 3 Children and Young People Workforce Diploma (NMS 18)
- ensure staff are equipped with the skills required to meet the needs of the young people and the purpose of the setting. In particular, specialist training relating to young people with learning disabilities and the conditions of young people receiving a service. (NMS 18.1)