

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC405713
Inspection date	27/02/2013
Inspector	Rebecca Sharp
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	25/10/2012
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Service information

Brief description of the service

The home is operated by a national, private provider and looks after three young people with emotional and behavioural difficulties. The service offers planned and emergency admissions, and provides short, medium and long-term placements. Young people are likely to require high levels of support.

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 home's last full inspection in October 2012, its overall effectiveness was judged as adequate and three requirements and one recommendation were made. The purpose of this inspection was to monitor the progress made since then. During this visit, the inspector found that all of the previous shortfalls had been satisfactorily addressed. Addressing these issues has improved some areas of care. The staff continue to provide a good quality of care for young people overall, but some additional shortfalls have been identified. In light of this, and the fact that the home has been without a Registered Manager since the last inspection, this inspection judged that the service is making satisfactory progress.

The provider has recruited a new manager for the home who has been in post since January 2013. This means the home has been functioning without a manager for three months. Ofsted have received a registration application from the manager but are awaiting references and medical clearance. The manager has addressed the requirements and recommendation set at the last inspection, which has strengthened

the leadership and management of the home. Furthermore, the manager has worked positively to minimise disruption throughout a difficult transitional period, maintaining the young people's needs as ultimate priority while managing the home and recruiting new staff.

A number of staff have left since the last inspection. New staff have been recruited in order to ensure appropriate levels of care for young people. These staff are being supported through their probationary period and receive regular supervision. Relief staff who are employed by the company also receive regular supervision. This means that their practice is monitored and developed in line with full time staff and meets the recommendation made at the last inspection. Recruitment procedures are thorough and the required information is held on staff's files. This means that every precaution has been taken to prevent unsuitable adults working with young people.

There are a number of monitoring systems in place within the home. This means that records are regularly checked as required and the conduct of the home is reviewed frequently, including the health and safety of the premises. There is a new system in place to ensure all reports reviewing the quality of care are routinely sent into Ofsted. These actions meet two requirements made at the last inspection. As a result, Ofsted are able to regulate the service more efficiently. The regular health and safety checks completed enables the organisation to ensure the home and its grounds are safe and free from hazards to young people and staff.

The home has been redecorated in places since the last inspection. Most rooms are well maintained and young people have a say in how the home is presented. However, the inspector found some damage including a hole in the wall in the downstairs toilet and damage to the walls in the living room. This took away from the homely feel of the service and a recommendation has been made to address this damage.

Young people make positive progress whilst in placement. They have many opportunities to discuss issues with staff and have a say in the day to day running of the home. Staff are committed to ensuring positive outcomes for young people and develop strong relationships with them as a result. Young people feel safe in the home and feel listened to. Consequently, some young people's behaviour is improving and they are investing more in their placement.

Information held on young people's files is comprehensive and enables the reader to gain a good picture of the individual and their journey through placement. However, some young people do not have a copy of their statutory health assessment on file. This means that the home does not know if they are meeting all of the young people's health needs. In one case, the manager has made several requests to the placing authority for this document to no avail, but has not escalated these requests. Although any risk to young people is reduced, due to them attending other health agencies such as the dentist, optician and GP, a requirement has been made to ensure this information is on file as a matter of priority, in order to confirm all health action needed has been taken.

With the above exception, the quality of care provided by the service has remained consistently good since the last inspection. Young people are encouraged to take part in activities external to the home, and to develop friendships in the local community. There are an abundance of opportunities available for them including paint balling, go karting and going to the local cinema. As a result, young people develop confidence in cultivating new talents and improving their self-esteem and social skills.

Areas for improvement

Statutory Requirements

This section sets out the actions which must be taken so that the registered person/s meets the Care Standards Act 2000, Children's Homes Regulations 2001 and the National Minimum Standards. The registered person(s) must comply with the given timescales.

Reg.	Requirement	Due date
28 (2001)	ensure that in respect of each child who is accommodated in the home a record in permanent form is kept of details of any immunisation, allergy, or medical examination of the child and of any medical or dental need or treatment of the child. (Regulation 28 (1) Schedule 3 (22))	15/04/2013

Recommendations

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

- ensure the home provides a comfortable and homely environment and is well maintained and decorated. This is in relation to the downstairs toilet and living room walls. (NMS 10.3)

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*.