

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC412687
Inspection date	23/01/2012
Inspector	Valerie Shephard
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	18/05/2011
--------------------------------	------------

© Crown copyright 2012

Website: www.ofsted.gov.uk

This document may be reproduced in whole or in part for non-commercial educational purposes, provided that the information quoted is reproduced without adaptation and the source and date of publication are stated.

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

The home is privately owned and registered to provide care and accommodation for up to three young people of either gender.

Progress

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

This interim inspection has focused on the progress made by the home since the last full inspection when the overall judgement was good. The home has made good progress in all areas which improves the quality of care and outcomes for young people. Following the last inspection, there was an additional visit following a complaint from a young person. A requirement from the visit was for the home to be kept clean and reasonably decorated and maintained.

Two of the requirements and the recommendation have been addressed. The newly appointed manager has the required qualifications, skills and experience to effectively manage the home. There is still an outstanding requirement for the appointed manager to submit their application to Ofsted for registration. There is now a more robust system for the maintenance of children's records. New staff commence on the Children and Young People's Workforce Diploma induction programme. There has been an improvement to the standards of décor, tidiness and cleanliness in the home. These measures help to ensure that the management of the home benefits the welfare of the young people.

There is evidence of improved outcomes for some of the young people who live in the home. A large majority of the young people are either attending education or work, and are making good progress. Examples of this are in relation to achieving qualifications and good work reports. Staff maintain regular contact with educational establishments and employers to support young people's progress. One young person commented, 'staff fully support me with my education and attend meetings held at college'. Where young people are not in education or employment, staff have been proactive in trying to secure appropriate provision for them, for example, through the home tutoring service.

A range of leisure activities are available and young people engage in these to a greater or lesser extent. One young person has recently obtained a coaching qualification and another has engaged in a programme provided by the Princes' Trust. Participation in these programmes has helped to develop young people's confidence and sense of achievement. A social worker commented, 'the home has done very well for the young person I am responsible for.'

Young people have placement plans and are encouraged to contribute to these

during key worker sessions. These assist staff to understand the complex needs of each young person to ensure they can give them the best possible care. For young people on transition, staff support their independence by encouraging and teaching skills such as shopping, cooking and money management. The provision of bus passes encourages and enables young people to go out independently, rather than relying on staff to transport them.

The manager has implemented a strong behaviour management policy and is supporting staff to be more consistent in their management of the behaviour of the young people. Clearer boundaries are in place and there is evidence that discord within the home is generally of shorter duration. Some young people have struggled with this new regime, however, by being consistent staff believe that behaviour generally is improving.

There is regular contact and meetings between staff and key people in young people's lives, such as social workers and parents. This improved dialogue ensures that joint decisions are made and consistent messages are given to young people about their behaviour. This means that staff, parents and social workers are working cooperatively for the benefit of young people.

There is a regular review of risk assessments with particular attention paid to the high level of missing from home incidents. Staff are clear about what to do when a young person goes missing, and when they return to the home. This has resulted in reduced incidents of missing from home for some young people.

The manager is offering good leadership in the home and is fulfilling the home's aims and objectives. Monthly supervision sessions take place for staff which enables them to feel supported in their role of caring for young people. Training is of high priority to ensure staff have the necessary skills to care for young people effectively. The majority of the staff have obtained the required childcare qualification. New staff enrol on the Children and Young People's Workforce Diploma within six months of commencing employment in the home.

Quality assurance systems are in place with the completion of Regulation 33 and Regulation 34 reports. The home's Statement of Purpose and the development plan are in the process of review. These measures assist the manager to focus on the strengths and weaknesses of the home. This means that the home can quickly address any shortfalls which are identified in the quality of care of young people.

The home is clean and tidy, suitably and comfortably furnished and there is evidence of recent improvements to the décor. An ongoing maintenance programme is in place to address minor damage to furniture and furnishings. Young people personalise their own bedrooms with pictures and their choice of bedding. Decoration plans are in place for all the bedrooms within the next few months. It is planned that young people will be encouraged to choose the décor for their own space, and assist with the decoration. Involvement in the planning of the decoration serves to give young people a sense of ownership within the home. The home is within a residential

area with good links to local facilities and public transport, which enables young people to maintain interests and friendships.

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
8 (2001)	ensure that the appointed manager submits an application to be the Registered Manager in accordance with the Care Standards Act, Part II (12). (Regulation 8)	23/03/2012

Recommendations

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