

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC424280
Inspection date	28/02/2014
Inspector	Katarina Djordjevic
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	23/05/2013
--------------------------------	------------

© Crown copyright 2014

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.

Service information

Brief description of the service

This is a local authority managed children's home which provides care and accommodation for two young people with emotional or behavioural difficulties.

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 inspection in May 2013 the overall quality rating for the service was judged as good. One requirement was made regarding fire drills; this has been addressed. Three recommendations were made regarding monitoring of behaviour; consulting with parents and placing authorities as part of the monitoring systems and sending a copy of the Schedule 6 internal management monitoring report to Ofsted at six monthly intervals.

All staff now take part in regular fire drills. This ensures staff know how to keep young people safe in the event of a fire.

The monitoring of behaviour has improved since the last inspection. The format for recording physical interventions and sanctions has been updated to include a section on the effectiveness of the measure of control. The Registered Manager checks these records regularly although physical interventions are rarely used. A review of the records shows that where sanctions are inappropriate these are revoked or changed. Additionally, in preparation for the new regulations which come into force on 1 April 2014, a new monitoring format has been produced which focuses on analysing

information and identifying any trends, patterns and triggers. This recommendation has been addressed. Additionally, it demonstrates the home's capacity to improve the quality of care.

Schedule 6 internal monitoring reports do not evidence that the visitor has spoken to parents or placing authorities or that any attempt has been made to contact these stakeholders. Therefore this recommendation has not been addressed. A requirement has been made. However, these reports are now sent to Ofsted as required. This enables Ofsted to monitor the quality of care provided to young people.

Young people make really good progress during their time at the home. However, shortfalls identified during this inspection have resulted in a satisfactory progress judgement. This is because the home's admission and discharge practices are not always based on individual needs. This is because the local authority has moved young people with very little consultation in order to meet the service needs. In January 2014 a number of young people were moved to and from the local authority homes to accommodate another young person who was returning to live in the area. As a result, young people's needs and wishes are not always taken into account regarding their placement options. This does not ensure young people are empowered and feel valued.

Young people's care plans (known as residential action plans) and risk assessments on the whole give clear details of young people's needs, risks and how to meet them. However, the inspector identified that a care plan did not include reference to a young person being at risk of child sexual exploitation. This area of risk was included in the young person's risk assessment and there is no evidence that this omission in the care plan has impacted on the delivery of care for young people.

Young people really do make good progress at the home given their starting points. They are happy at the home, their safety improves and their life opportunities also improve. This is because the staff team are committed to improving young people's lives. Young people are able to develop trusting relationships with staff which helps them learn to become as independent as possible. A young person told the inspector that this was 'the best home they had ever been in' and said this was because staff 'listen to you, help you work through your problems and don't kick you out.'

The inspector spoke with a young person, who has recently left the home and moved into semi-independent living. The young person could not praise staff enough. The young person finished their education and now has a full-time apprenticeship which they are really enjoying. The young person told the inspector 'If I never lived there (the home) I wouldn't be where I am today.' The young person continues to be supported by staff at the home and expressed their gratitude for the support and care they have received. The young person's confidence and self-esteem improved tremendously during their time at the home. They continue to be involved with the Children in Care Council and have taken part in the interview panels for the recruitment of residential staff.

Feedback in the home's quality questionnaires from a range of professionals demonstrate that young people receive a good level of care and that they thrive in the home. One professional from the Youth Offending Team commented that " *** has been so well cared for and valued (here at Percival) that *** has developed a sense of self-worth and ability to reflect. This was an ideal placement for *** and will make the difference to help him succeed in life."

Young people make good progress in changing some of their challenging and risk taking behaviours. This is because staff are skilled and committed to improving young people's lives. Staff do not give up on young people where their needs and behaviours are complex. Clear boundaries are set which are applied consistently so young people understand what is expected from them. Working with other professionals including the Missing from Care team and the local police is integral to improving the safety of young people. One social worker wrote to the home to thank them for their commitment to a young person and commented, 'it is recognised across the multi-agency team that **** is receiving a high standard of care whilst at Percival. It is recognised that staff continue to use a consistent approach to reinforce boundaries.' As a result, young people's safety improves and they learn about the impact of their behaviours on their future lives.

Three requirements have been made regarding the admission and discharge practices; care plans and consulting with key stakeholders as part of the management monitoring systems.

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
11 (2001)	ensure that the children's home is conducted so as to make proper provision for the care, education, supervision, support and, where appropriate, treatment, of children accommodated there. This is with specific reference to ensuring admission and discharge practices are based on all young people's individual needs and are not service led (Regulation 11(1) (b))	02/05/2014
11 (2001)	promote and make proper provision for the welfares of young people and make proper provision for the care, education, supervision and ,where appropriate treatment of young people accommodated. This is with specific reference to ensuring young people's care plans contain details of all areas of needs including being at risk of child sexual exploitation (Regulation 11 (1) (a) (b))	28/04/2014
34	shall provide for consultation with children accommodated in	28/04/2014

(2001)	the home, their parents and placing authorities as part of the system referred to in paragraph (1) of this regulation. (Regulation 34 (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*.