

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC456330
Inspection date	12/03/2014
Inspector	Clive Lucas
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	22/11/2013
--------------------------------	------------

© 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 service provides four placements for children with emotional and/or behavioural difficulties. A private organisation owns and operates this setting.

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 previous inspection the home was judged to be good. Since that time the home has made satisfactory progress. There have been some areas of improvement and some shortfalls. At the previous inspection shortfalls were identified relating to the maintenance of the home, some records, and complaints.

A number of kitchen appliances have been replaced, so that young people now have access to electrical appliances that are in good condition. There are systems in place to ensure that the home is well maintained and suitable for young people to live in. At the time of this inspection, there had been some recent damage that there had not been sufficient time to repair. The Registered Manager had plans for how it would be repaired in order to reduce further damage and provide a homely environment. While there are some areas that show signs of wear, the standard of accommodation has now improved to provide a suitable home for young people to live in. Young people have keys for their bedrooms and can go into them as they please. Some communal areas are locked at certain times. For example the lounge is locked at night times and during education time. The Registered Manager is looking towards having these rooms constantly open unless there is a good reason to lock them.

Records are more legible now so that they can be more easily monitored. In addition, this will make it easier for young people to read their records if they wish to in the future. The Registered Manager monitors records of sanctions regularly to ensure that they are legible and correctly recorded. This also allows him to identify any areas for improvement. Staff have been reminded of the complaints procedure and young people know how to make a complaint if they wish to. There have not been any complaints since the previous inspection.

When a referral is made to the home, the process set out in the Statement of Purpose is not always followed. As a result sufficient information is not always gathered. Consequently, not all referrals are appropriately assessed in order to ensure that the home can effectively meet the needs of the young person and continue to meet the needs of the existing group. Some young people have been at the home for several years and are doing well. Others who have recently moved in are showing signs of settling and being happy in the home. Failing to appropriately assess the impact of new admissions can have a negative impact on the settled group.

Staff are regularly supervised, but records of the supervision is poor in some cases. The records do not show that practice is always discussed or that issues raised are satisfactorily addressed. Lack of appropriate supervision limits the Registered Manager's ability to ensure that practice is good and that young people receive consistently good care.

Outcomes of statutory reviews are not always recorded on young people's files before the official minutes are received. Consequently, there is a period when it is not clear if any plans have changed and staff cannot begin to work to new action points for young people. Apart from this placement plans and risk assessments are clearly recorded to inform staff about the care of young people.

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 promote and make proper provision for the safeguarding and welfare of children accommodated there. This specifically relates to making assessments of potential new admissions to the home (Regulation 11(1)(a))	18/04/2014

27 (2001)	ensure that all persons employed in the home receive appropriate supervision (Regulation 27(4)(a))	18/04/2014
34 (2001)	monitor the matters set out in Schedule 6. This specifically relates to compliance with the placing authority's plan for the care of the child and ensuring that there is a record of decisions taken at statutory reviews. (Regulation 34(	18/04/2014

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*.