

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC355902
Inspection date	10/01/2012
Inspector	Paul Taylor
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	26/07/2011
--------------------------------	------------

© 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 setting offers care and accommodation for up to six young people aged from eight to 17 years who display emotional and behavioural difficulties. Children and young people are normally placed at the home for medium to long-term periods, although emergency and short-term placements are also provided. The home is run by a private organisation.

Progress

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

At the last inspection which was carried out in August 2011 three recommendations were made. Contact details for young people's Independent Reviewing Officers are known as well as the contact details of the Children's Rights Officer. There have been no recorded restraints and so the home has not had the opportunity to include young people's views in the records of restraint. One recommendation has not been addressed. This relates to ensuring that all written records are clearly expressed.

However the quality of care and outcomes for young people has declined. Young people reported that they do not feel safe in the home and that there has been significant disruption caused by young people's behaviour, particularly damage and incidents involving aggression. Behaviour management plans have not been reviewed by key workers, managers or the staff team to ensure they are effective, especially when dealing with significant incidents which have been repeated, such as criminal damage and incidents of aggression and even violence between the young people. This has meant that strategies used have not been effective in managing the behaviour.

Recording of some incidents has lacked detail and has not made it clear whether psychological intervention was used. For example, one incident report had different details from the report in the daily log and a young person reported that he felt he had been restrained during the incident.

The home has not informed Ofsted of significant incidents as required by regulation. This included an incident involving a child protection investigation and serious incidents where the police have been called to the home after damage, and allegations of assault, racism and theft. However, other relevant agencies were informed of the incident involving the child protection issue which was addressed effectively.

Recently a new manager for the home has been appointed. Feedback from members of staff and the young people has been positive about this appointment and there

are plans to develop practice and address issues. This involves a review of the behaviour management approach and more involvement of the young people in meetings and planning. These plans have not yet had time to become effectively embedded in the practice of the home.

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
17B (2001)	ensure that the registered person keeps under review and, where appropriate ,revises the behaviour management policy (Regulation 17B (2) (a))	06/02/2012
30 (2001)	ensure that if, in relation to a children's home, any of the events listed in column 1 of the table in Schedule 5 take place, the registered person shall without delay notify the people indicated in respect of the event in column 2 of the table. (Regulation 30 (1))	06/02/2012

Recommendations

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

- ensure written records are clearly expressed; this is with regards to ensuring that all the necessary details are included in incident reports. (NMS 22.4)