

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	07/08/2012
Inspector	Stephen Halliley
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	27/10/2011
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Service information

Brief description of the service

This children's home is privately owned and is registered to provide care and accommodation for up to four children of either gender. The home offers care and accommodation for children who have emotional and 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 **good progress**.

This home was last inspected in October 2011 and the service provision was judged to be good with one requirement and two recommendations being made. Since this time the home has shown capacity for improvement by meeting these requirements and recommendations and through a number of steps taken by the newly Registered Manager.

In terms of notifying HMCI when someone other than the registered person manages the home this has been addressed by the acting manager having been appointed to the post of Registered Manager and being successfully registered with Ofsted. Other homes in the organisation that have found themselves in a similar position have notified HMCI of this, showing that the organisation as a whole, and the home, have met this requirement.

With respect to initiating reviews within 72 hours of emergency admissions the home has determined they will set a time and date with social workers at the point of placement but hold an initial review of the placement within the required timescale whether the social worker is available or not, as it was their inability to attend a

review which caused this recommendation to be given.

In terms of physical restrictions for one child imposing similar restrictions on others the lock to the kitchen door has been removed and this type of restriction is no longer an issue within the home.

Outcomes for young people continue to improve in terms of contact arrangements, developing social skills, transition to future placements and especially education, where numerous awards and certificates have been achieved by the young people.

The home has further evidenced improvement in terms of leadership and management with the appointment and registration of a new manager and the recent appointment of a deputy to provide appropriate support to manage the home effectively and efficiently. The management have responded quickly to new staff development needs as they have been identified. For example, training in diabetes care, updates to behaviour management to address attachment issues and a cluster of staff injuries during restraint. Counselling sessions have been arranged to support staff in separating emotional, personal and professional feelings around a recent issue for one young person.

Team meetings have been very child focused, looking at emotional development and the provision provided. There are also plans to include some team building and staff dynamic work to further strengthen the consistent team approach. Risk assessment recording has been revamped to show two levels of risk, one with no control measures in place and one with all reasonable measures in place. These are then rated as low, moderate, high or serious risk and are colour coded. This provides clear evidence to social workers of how the home is actively working to safeguard young people and how risks are being significantly reduced. The children's guide is being updated by the new deputy home manager but this does not currently include information on how young people can contact appropriate agencies if they wish to make a complaint.

Young people confirm they are well looked after and kept safe by staff and are happy in the home. They also appear at ease around staff who are focused on providing high quality child care in a safe, well supervised environment. The home provides a good quality service to young people and staff are very proactive in terms of supporting young people to access education, improve their social skills and interactions and develop independence skills.

Areas for improvement

Recommendations

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

- ensure the children's guide includes a summary of what the home sets out to do for children, how they can find out their rights, how a child can contact their

independent reviewing officer, the Children's Rights Director, Ofsted if they wish to raise a concern with inspectors, and how to secure access to an independent advocate. (NMS 13.5)

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)*.