

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	07/02/2013
Inspector	Debbie Foster
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	25/10/2012
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Service information

Brief description of the service

The children's home is run by a local authority. It is registered to accommodate up to six young people of either gender. The home provides care and accommodation to young people with emotional or behavioural difficulties on a long-term basis.

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 interim inspection focused on the progress made by the home since the last full inspection in October 2012, at which the overall judgement was good. The home has demonstrated good progress in ensuring there is continued development and the care and outcomes for young people continue to develop..

Young people continue to live in a safe, caring and very supportive environment that enables them to make good progress in many aspects of their lives. Young people are protected by robust safeguarding measures. Risk assessments are consistently put into practice and clearly outline how staff manage young people's risks and vulnerabilities. Young people talk positively about their experiences in the home and say they feel safe and well cared for. A young person said, ' I'm doing well on my new course at college and on my independence, I can cook.' Young people's lives have improved because of the support provided by staff.

Relationships between young people and staff are a major strength. Young people speak positively about the care and support they receive from staff. Young people are growing in confidence and emotional maturity. They are provided with

opportunities that enable them to achieve and make good progress in a number of areas of their lives. For example, staff have worked closely with education providers. Where barriers exist for young people to participate, they work with schools, colleges and other educational providers to overcome this. As a result, the majority of young people make good progress in this respect because each education package is individually tailored to suit their specific needs and requirements.

The home is effectively managed and continues to show capacity for improvement based on its performance since the last inspection. The requirements from the previous inspection have been positively addressed. The environment including the entrance hall, stairs and landings have been decorated. This is to ensure that all parts of the building are suitably maintained providing young people with a pleasant home to live in. Action has been taken in a timely fashion to address the areas identified for improvement in the regulation 33 monitoring report. This assists to improve the quality of care provided to young people.

Progress has been made in addressing the recommendations from the previous inspection. A summary report to monitor the matters set out in regulation 34 have been compiled and sent to Ofsted as required. This demonstrates that the Registered Manager is monitoring the quality of care provided to young people to assist in bringing further improvement to their care.

One recommendation has not been implemented in full. Young people's placement plan do not always record and review all the progress young people are making in line with their care plans aims in health, safety, and independence areas. This does not ensure that the requirements of the plan are implemented in full.

Areas for improvement

Recommendations

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

- ensure that each child's placement plan is monitored by a key worker within the home who ensures that the requirements of the plan are implemented in full. In particular, recording and reviewing all the progress young people are making in line with their care plans, including health, safety, and independence areas, making the necessary changes where required. (NMS 25.2)

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*.