

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC428599
Inspection date	21/10/2013
Inspector	Valerie Shephard
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	23/05/2013
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Service information

Brief description of the service

The home is run by a privately owned company and is registered for up to four children or young people who have a learning disability or mental health disorder.

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**.

At the last inspection in May 2013, the overall judgement of the home was good. There were two requirements and five recommendations made. The home has made good progress which has resulted in an improvement in the quality of care and outcomes for young people.

The home has experienced some changes since the last inspection. The prompt appointment of a new manager, following the resignation of the previous manager, has ensured minimal disruption for young people. The manager is in the process of applying for registration with Ofsted. He has extensive previous experience in residential work, including at management level, and possesses a suitable management qualification.

The manager brings enthusiasm and commitment to his role. He is an effective leader and is quickly identifying shortfalls and taking appropriate action to deal with these. He has addressed the requirements and all but one of the recommendations made at the previous inspection. The home's detailed and realistic development plan is subject to regular review and outlines areas for development to sustain improvement. There is effective monitoring of the home's operations with the timely

completion of internal and independent visitor reports. There are prompt notifications of significant events to relevant authorities. These practices enable the regulatory body to maintain effective oversight of the home's progress.

Currently the manager is working on changing the format of placement plans to ensure staff can use these more effectively to support their work with young people. All basic information in accordance with regulations is available on young people's files. This ensures staff have access to facts about the young people they are caring for. However, there is a shortfall in relation to some case records which are not up to date. As a result, these do not provide an accurate narrative of young people's progress in the home.

An increase in permanent members of staff has resulted in less reliance on agency workers. Currently the home only uses one agency worker whom the young people know well. This has enabled the staff team to develop supportive working relationships with each other and provide consistency of care to young people. Effective scrutiny and verification of references ensure that staff are suitable and safe to work in the home. Staff benefit from regular and good quality supervision which supports them to carry out their roles effectively with young people. One recommendation is outstanding from the previous inspection. This relates to staff supervision records which still do not detail the duration of the session. The new electronic recording system, due for implementation, has the capacity to include this in the future.

Outcomes for young people within the home are continuing to improve. For example, one young person has enjoyed a successful transition to a new school and is receiving positive daily reports. Staff celebrate young people's achievements, which has a beneficial effect on their confidence and sense of well-being. Staff have successfully rekindled other young people's interest and engagement in further education. This is a particularly good outcome for young people who have been out of education for a while.

Young people generally enjoy good physical health and where appropriate take responsibility for their own medication. They engage well with child and adolescent mental health services, which assists them with their mental health difficulties. Some young people have successfully addressed problems with substance misuse.

There is evidence of improvements in some young people's engagement in group living. One example is young people beginning to share meals with others, with support and encouragement from staff. Young people are more involved with their reviews and have an input into their plans and the running of the home. There is evidence of more effective engagement with therapy. This has resulted in young people becoming calmer and more able to use reflective time with some success. Young people are developing stronger and more trusting relationships with staff and consequently there are fewer incidents of restraint. Some young people are acquiring independence skills by undertaking voluntary and charitable work in the community.

A programme of decoration and re-design has enhanced the living environment of

the home. Some of the improvements have been as a result of consultation with young people about how to freshen up the communal areas. The new layout provides additional spaces for relaxation, or for young people to have private meetings with family members or professionals. Attention to damage within reasonable timescales ensures the home continues to provide a comfortable and pleasant environment for 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
28 (2001)	maintain in respect of each child who is accommodated in the children's home a record in permanent form which is kept up to date. (Regulation 28(1)(b))	29/11/2013

Recommendations

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

- ensure supervision records held for each member of staff detail the time and date and duration of the session. (NMS 19.5)

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*.