

Inspection report for children's home

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<b>Inspection date</b>	12/12/2013
<b>Inspector</b>	Shaun Common
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Interim
<b>Provision subtype</b>	Secure Unit

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<b>Date of last inspection</b>	01/05/2013
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## Service information

### Brief description of the service

This secure children's home is operated by a local authority and is approved by the Secretary of State to restrict young people's liberty. Education is provided on site in a separate purpose-built building.

The children's home can accommodate up to 27 young people, who are aged between 10 and 17 years. Admission of any young person over the age of 10 but under 13 years of age requires the approval of the Secretary of State.

Facilities include an artificial surface sports pitch, a sports hall, gym, garden areas and a courtyard containing a tennis court.

### The inspection judgements and what they mean

<b>Good progress</b>	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.
<b>Satisfactory progress</b>	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.
<b>Inadequate progress</b>	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 **inadequate progress**.

At the last inspection in May 2013, the overall effectiveness of the secure unit was judged as good. One requirement and six recommendations were made. Four recommendations have been addressed. However, the requirement and two of the recommendations have not been addressed and a further area for improvement has been identified.

At the last inspection, the registered person was required to ensure that entries to the sanction record include the effectiveness of the measure. Managers have introduced a separate system for monitoring the effectiveness of any sanctions in

order to act on any trends, patterns and themes. However, they have not ensured that the record for the purpose of recording sanctions contains this information as legally required. This means young people and staff do not see this information and this does not promote young people's rights or support staff in assisting young people to improve behaviour. A further requirement is raised about this matter.

A recommendation made at the last inspection was that the policy relating to searching young people's rooms and communal areas of the home is reviewed and implemented. The policy has been reviewed and updated; however staff are not implementing this policy as required. For example, risk assessments determine the frequency with which bedroom searches take place in order to safeguard all young people. Staff are not conducting searches to the frequency required by the risk assessments and managers are not effectively monitoring that this takes place. There was no evidence to suggest that young people are placed at risk by this inaction, but there is the potential for young people's safety to be compromised through the policy not being implemented fully. A requirement is raised about this matter.

The registered person was asked at the last inspection to ensure that records of physical restraint are in formats that cannot be tampered with after the event. This has not yet been fully addressed. Managers have been looking at contracting this work with an information technology provider. However, the work has been deemed to be complex to deliver what is required. This has delayed implementation and therefore work is on-going in this area. A further recommendation is raised about this matter.

The registered person was asked to ensure that young people are always given the opportunity to be examined by a registered nurse or medical practitioner after any physical restraint. This matter has been fully addressed and ensures young people are safeguarded and their health and well-being are promoted.

The registered person was asked to ensure that the environment is well maintained and decorated. This has been fully addressed and the provision is conducive to the positive care of young people.

A recommendation was made at the last inspection that records are kept up to date to show staff are qualified or working towards a qualification and that they have undertaken relevant training. Records have been reviewed and updated and show that 41 staff are qualified, seven are undertaking a qualification and seven new staff will be starting a relevant qualification in the near future. Records also show the training that staff members have completed. This demonstrates the secure unit has staff that have the knowledge to care effectively for young people.

The Registered Manager was asked to provide a summary report of monitoring carried out under regulation 34. The manager has completed this report and has forwarded this to Ofsted. This ensures that Ofsted can have oversight of the monitoring taking place and the quality of care being provided to young people.

A system for the recording and dispensation of medication to young people is in place. However, records kept by the home show that young people do not always get the medication they need when they need it in order to support them to stay healthy and well. This matter has also been raised by the independent person who visits the home monthly and the matter remains outstanding.

There are areas where practice has improved since the last inspection. Care, health and education staff are working more closely together in relation to care planning for young people. Internal care planning meetings are held regularly between these professionals and others to ensure that young people's needs are assessed fully and planned for effectively.

A substance misuse worker is now allocated to work at the home three days per week providing specific interventions for young people. This provides young people with improved support and care by promoting their health and well-being and providing them with knowledge to live a healthier lifestyle.

The child health assessment tool (CHAT) has been introduced. This is a formal recording system that is used to assess, plan for and meet young people's health needs.

## 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 the children's home is conducted so as to promote and make proper provision for the welfare of children accommodated; specifically, ensure that searches of bedrooms are carried out in line with the policy to ensure practice safeguards all children (Regulation 11(1)(a))	31/12/2013
17B (2001)	ensure that sanction records include the effectiveness of the measure used (Regulation 17B(3)(e))	28/02/2014
21 (2001)	ensure that any medicine which is prescribed for a child is administered as prescribed, to the child for whom it is prescribed. (Regulation 21(2)(b))	31/12/2013

### Recommendations

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

- ensure that records of restraint are kept in formats that cannot be tampered with after the event - e.g. bound numbered records or electronic entries that are then "barred" so that they cannot be amended at a later date. (Volume 5, statutory guidance, paragraph 2.91)

## 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*.