

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC368032
Inspection date	30/01/2014
Inspector	Mark Ryder
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	09/05/2013
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Service information

Brief description of the service

This children's home is registered to provide care and accommodation for up to three young people with emotional and behavioural difficulties. The home is privately owned.

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 **inadequate progress**.

At the last inspection in May 2013 the home was judged adequate with three statutory requirements and four recommendations. Only one requirement has been met and two of the previous recommendations have been escalated to statutory requirements as a result of this inspection. Progress has not, therefore, been adequately maintained.

This home has inconsistent care practice and overall lacks effective leadership and management. There has not been a Registered Manager in place for over 30 weeks. The present manager has yet to submit a fully completed application form to Ofsted. The present manager does have the required qualifications and experience although has yet to be assessed through the registration process. This meets one of the previous requirements.

Young people say they like the staff and that they are respected and valued. Young people are able to pursue recreational interests such as attending local youth clubs, football teams or going to the gym. This is an improvement since the last inspection.

Most of the staff do not have sufficient training, skills, knowledge or experience of caring for young people with emotional and behaviour difficulties. For example, a high level of police action has recently taken place which indicates that staff have not been able to manage challenging behaviour in a consistent way. Staff, therefore, are not competent to promote the welfare and to safeguard young people adequately.

Education, employment and training is inconsistently promoted within this home. For some young people this means that their days are without structure, interest or value. This leads to some young people staying in bed for long periods of time during the day. For some young people there is little or no progress since their placements began.

Young person are aware of the placement plans and are able to contribute to them. This is an improvement since the last inspection.

Supervisory arrangements for the manager of this home are insufficient. The line management of the current manager does not reflect the level of competence, skill and knowledge of residential child care required. This impacts on the quality, safety, outcomes and overall leadership and management of the home.

Children repeatedly go missing from this home. The arrangements for the protection of young people is compromised by poor interagency working practice and lack of overview of the missing from care procedures by suitable local agencies. There is no formal protocol between this service and the police force. This has the potential to put young people at risk of significant harm.

Serious events which have necessitated calling out the police have not been notified to Ofsted. The regulator is therefore, unable to assess the potential risks within the home between inspections.

The outcome of this inspection is that a further three requirements have been made in reference to promotion of welfare, competency of staff and safeguarding young people who are missing from the home. This impacts of the progress of young people in the care of this 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
11 (2001)	ensure that the children's home is conducted so as to promote and make proper provision for the welfare of children	28/02/2014

	accommodated there and make proper provision for the care, education, supervision and, where appropriate, treatment, of children accommodated there (Regulation 11 (a)(b) *	
16 (2001)	prepare and implement as required a procedure to be followed when any child accommodated in a children's home is absent without permission which has regard to any relevant local authority or police protocols on missing children (Regulation 16 (4) (b)) *	28/02/2014
18 (2001)	ensure that where any child in a children's home has attained the age where he is no longer required to receive compulsory full-time education, the registered person shall assist with the making of, and give effect to, the arrangements made for his education, training and employment (Regulation 18 (3)) *	28/02/2014
25 (2001)	ensure that there is at all times a sufficient number of suitably qualified, competent and experienced persons working at the children's home (Regulation 25 (1)(a)(b)) *	28/02/2014
30 (2001)	ensure that any of the events listed in column 1 of the table in Schedule 5 takes place, the registered person shall without delay notify the persons indicated in respect of the event in column 2 of the table. (Regulation 30(1)) *	28/02/2014

*These requirements are subject to a compliance notice

Recommendations

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

- ensure that written records kept by the home when a child goes missing detail action taken by staff, the circumstances of the child's return, any reasons given by the child for running away from the home, and any action taken in the light of those reasons (NMS 5.10)
- ensure suitable arrangements exist for professional supervision of the registered person of the agency. (NMS 19.3)

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*.