

Inspection report for children's home

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| Unique reference number | SC033587 |
| Inspection date | 24/01/2014 |
| Inspector | Debbie Foster |
| Type of inspection | Interim |
| Provision subtype | Children's home |

| | |
|--------------------------------|------------|
| Date of last inspection | 28/08/2013 |
|--------------------------------|------------|

© Crown copyright 2014

Website: www.ofsted.gov.uk

This document may be reproduced in whole or in part for non-commercial educational purposes, provided that the information quoted is reproduced without adaptation and the source and date of publication are stated.

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. The home provides long-term residential care to young people with 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 **inadequate progress**.

The home was judged to be providing an inadequate service to young people on the inspection undertaken in July 2013. However, a number of improvements were swiftly implemented to address the concerns raised. As a result, young people live in a home where the overall effectiveness and impact on young people are judged to be adequate. At this interim inspection the home is found to be making inadequate progress. This is due to the service not fully implementing the requirement made at the last inspection.

Action has been taken to implement the two recommendations previously made. Enhancements have been made to the environment and in particular, some communal areas have been decorated and bedroom carpets have been replaced. This provides young people with a comfortable and homely environment to live. Deficiencies identified in the Regulation 33 monitoring visits have been implemented, which supports a suitable service being maintained for young people.

Staff continue to work tirelessly to engage young people in education and training,

with good success for some and limited improvements for others. This assists for most in providing wider training and employment opportunities for young people as they reach adulthood and improve their life chances. All young people are currently settled and risk taking behaviour has reduced. Staff are clear about what action and support they are to implement, to safeguard young people. This ensures young people's safety is well promoted. This has now brought stability and improving outcomes for young people living at the home.

Staff are working more consistently as a team and receive regular supervision to assist in the monitoring care practices. The majority of staff vacancies have now been recruited to permanently, to enable all young people to build strong attachments, trusting relationships and to provide a secure environment in which they can fully thrive.

The requirement which has not been implemented in full relates to the recruitment checks for staff. The majority of recruitment checks are undertaken. These include the disclosure and barring service checks; full employment history and references. The service is not checking, as required by the regulations, if all workers are physically and mentally fit to work with children and young people. Recruitment practices are not therefore sufficiently robust to fully safeguard young people by ensuring that they are being cared for by staff who are fit to perform their duties.

A further shortfall has been identified during this inspection relating to the monitoring of the service. The regulation 33 monthly monitoring reports do not fully demonstrate and evaluate how the whole service will continue to improve the standard of care provided.

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 |
|--------------|--|------------|
| 26 (2001) | ensure that he does not employ a person to work at the children's home unless that person is fit to work at the children's home. In particular, ensure that all staff files include confirmation that staff are physically and mentally fit to for the purpose of the work to be performed. (Regulation 26 (1- 3)) | 28/03/2014 |

Recommendations

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

- ensure there are effective procedures for monitoring and controlling the activities of the home. In particular, that the monitoring systems evaluate the service provided, to further improve the quality of care delivered. (NMS 21.1)

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*.