

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	13/01/2014
Inspector	Emeline Evans
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	18/09/2013
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Service information

Brief description of the service

The service is a four-bedded children's home registered for boys with emotional and behavioural difficulties.

The home is owned and operated by a private organisation that specialises in the assessment and treatment of male adolescents who have experienced abuse. The organisation also provides educational and therapeutic training.

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 **satisfactory progress**.

The overall effectiveness of the home was judged as adequate at the last inspection in September 2013. One requirement and four recommendations were identified for further improvement. The home has maintained the good quality of care and adequate outcomes for young people.

Since the last inspection, there has been a focus on building and developing the staff team. A number of staff have left the home in the last few months and new staff have been recruited to fill these roles. The manager has also very recently left the organisation and a senior manager has taken on the role to manage the home. Staff and the management team are embracing recent changes with a positive attitude, and in turn, this is ensuring the home is maintaining its quality of care for the young people. Staff understand the roles and expectations placed on them and they are clearly passionate about promoting outcomes for young people.

The management team have complied with the requirement made at the last inspection for the Statement of Purpose to be revised and this now includes all the information required by the Regulations. There is a comprehensive development plan in operation. However, this details what the home has achieved in recent years and there is not sufficient focus on the future for the home.

A recommendation was set on the previous inspection in relation to the need to provide a homely environment that is well maintained and decorated. Some repairs were needed and the home was previously showing signs of wear and tear. There has been an investment in the home to ensure maintenance is prioritised and this has resulted in young people feeling it is more homely place to live.

Where a member of staff has lived outside the United Kingdom, further checks are now undertaken to establish their suitability to work with children. There are clear processes undertaken for the recruitment of staff and their suitability to work with children and young people.

Staff are proactive in promoting positive behaviour and relationships. Sanctions are used within the home. However, young people's views are not consistently recorded in the records kept within the home and young people spoken to were unsure of the impact of their views in the sanction process. The manager undertakes regular monitoring of the home and six monthly reviews are sent into Ofsted. Sanctions are reviewed during this process. However, trends and patterns are not established in relation to the effectiveness of sanctions used. Therefore, this recommendation has been repeated.

Since the last inspection, internal training has taken place with regard to strengthening the systems in place around medication; in addition, medication audits regularly take place. This has led to a more consistent approach to the quality of record keeping in this area.

There is a commitment from the new management and the staff within the home to further improve outcomes for young people and raise the standard of care. One of the recommendations from the last inspection has not been met. Young people are positive about the support that they receive and say they have good relationships with staff. The home is judged to have made satisfactory progress since the last inspection with outcomes and quality of care being successfully maintained.

Areas for improvement

Recommendations

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

- ensure where any sanctions are used, children are encouraged to have their views recorded in the records kept by the home (NMS 3.18)

- ensure that the registered person has a written development plan, reviewed annually, for the future of the home, either identifying any planned changes in the operation or resources of the service, or confirming the continuation of the home's current operation and resource (NMS 15.2)
- ensure the review of matters set out in Schedule 6 of the Children's Homes Regulations 2001 enables the provider to identify any trends or issues of concern, in order to improve the quality of care provided. This specifically relates to sanctions and their effectiveness. (Volume 5, statutory guidance, para 3.14)

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*.