

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC431799
Inspection date	28/01/2014
Inspector	Emeline Evans
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	02/10/2013
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Service information

Brief description of the service

The service is a two-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 some form of abuse and have subsequently been involved in perpetrating abusive behaviour themselves.

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 home was judged as adequate at the last full inspection in October 2013 with three statutory requirements and five recommendations for improvement. The home has maintained the quality of care and outcomes for young people.

At the time of the last inspection staff were deployed at times to provide support within other homes due to shortages of staff within the organisation. This resulted in young people 'visiting' other homes in the organisation for extended periods of time throughout the day. Since the last inspection, the home has employed an additional member of staff. Although, staff still support other homes if required there are now sufficient staff at the home to ensure continuity of staff. This has resulted in young people no longer going to other homes for prolonged visits. The manager has a

contingency plan in place to ensure young people's attachments are not overly disrupted.

The manager now has a comprehensive internal monitoring process in operation. There is a focus on improving the quality of care provided. Young people report that their views are sought during this process. However, this is not clearly evidenced and reflected upon within the reports. Though views from parents and placing authorities are obtained and some are captured within a logbook this information is not incorporated into this internal monitoring process. Therefore, shortfalls in the care of young people may not be fully recognised and addressed.

The home has an improved more detailed process for logging incidents when a young person has gone missing from the home. This ensures that monitoring of these incidents can take place more effectively. Details relating to any reasons given by the young person for running away or any action taken in light of those reasons are contained in various documentation. However, there is currently no clear audit trail in operation and this information is difficult to locate. Therefore, a recommendation has been made to further strengthen the record keeping in this area.

Staff undertake regular training which provides them with the necessary skills to fulfil the role. However, no progress has been made in relation to the recommendation raised at the last inspection for all staff to be working towards the Children's and Young People Workforce Diploma. Therefore, a requirement has now been made.

Since the last inspection, there has been an improvement in the quality of record keeping. The manager now scrutinises the records within the home to ensure consistency. She is now able to identify any weakness within the processes; these are discussed individually and within team meetings. In addition, the rosters in the home now detail actual hours worked by staff and this information is also transferred in to an electronic system.

Staff understand the roles and expectations placed on them and they are clearly passionate about promoting outcomes for young people. Staff set clear boundaries and young people know what is expected of them. As a result, young people continue to benefit from a child-centred approach from the staff team. One recommendation has been re-stated in relation to young people's risk assessments. There was no evidence these have been updated to reflect young people's present vulnerabilities. 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

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
27 (2001)	ensure where a person works in the children's home in a care role, that person attains or holds the required care role qualification. (Regulation 27(4)(a)(b))	31/03/2014

Recommendations

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

- ensure risk assessments are updated and include strategies to prevent risk to both the children and staff (NMS 4.5)
- ensure there are clear audit trails are in place to demonstrate written records kept by the home when a child goes missing detail any reasons why a child for running away from the home, and any action taken in the light of these reasons (NMS 5.10)
- ensure children's, parents' and placing authorities' views are recorded in the monitoring of the home. (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*.