

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC028174
Inspection date	21/02/2014
Inspector	Tracy Murty
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	10/05/2013
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Service information

Brief description of the service

This privately operated home is registered to provide care and accommodation for up to four young people who may display emotional or 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**.

At the last full inspection in May 2013, the overall effectiveness judgement for the home was adequate. Two requirements and four recommendations were made. One recommendation has not been met.

Young people now have access to a telephone, to make and receive calls without recourse to the staff team. This provides them with an opportunity to make calls in private to such agencies as Ofsted, Child line and advocacy services.

The Registered Manager has considered all new referrals for placements in the home and ensured that impact risk assessments have been fully completed prior to any new admissions. The Registered Manager has taken into consideration the suitability of potential placements of young people to this home and the needs of each young person. This ensures that the needs of each young person are clearly identified prior to any new admissions being made to the home.

Young people can now use the living room during the school day and have free access to it. If young people refuse to attend education, they cannot watch the

television in the living room, as this is disconnected during education times. Young people are aware of this and accept that they will not be allowed to watch television during education hours during the week, but can have access to communal living areas throughout the home. One young person stated that they felt that this was fair and that they understood the reasons for this needing to be put in place.

The home is decorated and furnished to a good standard throughout. All communal areas present as well maintained and young people state that they have been included in recent discussions about decorating the dining room in the home and choosing wallpaper. Some carpets have been replaced around the home and bathrooms present as clean and tidy. Young people have their own bedrooms, which they have been able to personalise to reflect their individual likes and tastes.

There have been some staff changes since the last inspection. Whilst some young people were not happy at the loss of trusted members of staff, they were consulted with by the manager and enabled to make representation about their feelings, which the manager then raised with senior management. Young people were therefore, enabled to express their feelings in relation to changes of staffing within the home and to voice their concerns in an appropriate manner. The manager ensured that their views and feelings were taken into consideration and consulted with them at an appropriate level throughout the process.

Young people engage well in educational provisions whilst living in this home, supported by the staff team. The attendance of all young people in educational placements is very good. The staff team works closely with local education providers to ensure that all young people have appropriate provisions in place. Young people have aspirations for their futures and begin to see the value of education and study. They speak with pride of their achievements and goals for their futures. Their inclusion in education has also enabled them to form friendships in the local area.

The staff team support young people to maintain positive and meaningful contact with family members and significant others. In line with agreed contact plans, family members can visit young people at the home, with support being provided by the staff team. Young people feel supported to keep in touch with significant others, with one stating, 'I am able to call my family and see them every week, this is very important to me.'

Young people take part in a wide range of social activities, including attendance at local gyms, horse riding, cinema and sports clubs. This promotes their inclusion in the local community and healthy lifestyles. Young people also benefit from a healthy and nutritious menu, contributing to meal planning each week with the staff. Specific dietary needs are taken into consideration, with young people being provided with meals which reflect their individual and cultural needs.

The home has a detailed Statement of Purpose in place, setting out the aims and objectives of the home. This has been reviewed in recent months, to reflect changes in the staff team, but a copy has not been sent to Ofsted. Young people receive a guide on admission to the home. This sets out the services provided and includes

details of the complaints procedures and of organisations they can contact if they have any concerns.

The manager has failed to ensure that all staff have received training in core areas. This includes the need for all staff to have received training in relation to equality and diversity, self-harm, child sexual exploitation, medication and first aid. This could undermine their ability to meet the complex needs of the young people living in this home and potentially place them at risk of actual or potential harm. The home has a rolling training plan in place for the coming year, but this has not taken into account the need for staff to have specific and bespoke training in certain areas. The lack of certain training opportunities for some staff and lack of management oversight of this issue could potentially place young people at risk. Records of training completed by staff has not been kept up-to-date by the manager and presents an unclear picture as to what training has been completed or is needed for staff.

The manager has failed to ensure that specific impact risk assessments for some young people have been considered and fully implemented. Where young people present with particularly high risk-taking behaviours, risk assessments and plans do not adequately reflect how such needs will be met. The staff team have also not completed all necessary training to be able to meet the complex needs of some young people, potentially placing both young people and staff at risk. The manager has failed to ensure that prior to new admissions taking place, all staff have the necessary skills and equipment in place to enable them to safely and competently support young people.

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
5 (2001)	ensure that the statement of purpose is kept under review and where appropriate, is revised and that Ofsted is notified of any such revision within 28 days (Regulation 5(a)(b))	31/03/2014
11 (2001)	ensure that the children's home is conducted so as to promote and make proper provision for the safeguarding and welfare of children accommodated there and make proper provision for the care, supervision, support and treatment of children accommodated there (Regulation 11(1)(a)(b))	31/03/2014
27 (2001)	ensure that all persons working in the children's home receive appropriate training. This is with specific reference to self-harm, child sexual exploitation, medication, first aid and equality and diversity training. (Regulation 27(4)(a))	31/03/2014

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*.