

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC457553
Inspection date	12/03/2014
Inspector	Norma Welsby
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 part of a large national provider and is located in a rural setting. The home is registered to provide care and accommodation for up to two children with emotional and/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 **satisfactory progress**.

At the full inspection in May 2013 this children's home was judged good. Since then the home has made satisfactory progress overall with good outcomes achieved by children and young people.

This is a well-managed home. The staff team work effectively together to provide care and support that meets individual needs. Good emphasis is placed on ensuring admissions to the home are appropriate, both in terms of staff being suitably skilled to meet assessed needs but also in relation to young people being compatible with each other. The manager is fully aware of changes in legislation that is affecting children's homes. He has already commenced a Diploma Level 5 qualification and has made a full assessment of outstanding training needs amongst the staff team.

Young people were extensively consulted during this inspection. Without exception all of their comments were extremely positive. One young person described the home as 'amazing' and 'the best children's home' they had experienced. Other positive comments related to the great relationship young people enjoy with staff

and the range of activities they enjoy. For example a recent project has been the construction of a hen house and run in the home's extensive grounds. Young people said that they feel safe at this home and recognise the progress they have made.

At the last inspection three requirements were made. These related to important information about the home and the quality of the review of care undertaken by the registered manager. In respect of the Statement of Purpose, there have been on-going discussions between Ofsted and senior managers in the company to ensure that this document fully meets legislative requirements. At the time of this inspection a further revised version was being produced by the home. It was agreed a copy would be forwarded to Ofsted. An improved young person's guide has also been produced since the full inspection. This is more child-friendly and can be easily adapted to ensure it is suitable for the differing needs of young people who are admitted to the home. The final requirement related to improving the manager's review of care. This process and the resulting report has been reviewed and improved and demonstrates better evidence of appropriate consultation with young people, parents and social workers. This means that important views are properly taken account of and contribute to further improvements in the home.

Four recommendations were also made at the full inspection. Since then the home has seen several improvements to the physical environment. The kitchen-diner has been fully refitted and redecorated and now provides a very functional and sociable space. The young people's bathroom has also been upgraded and new carpets fitted in their bedrooms. While the home has also been recently redecorated, there was some damage to a bedroom door frame and paintwork noted. Furthermore the roof has not yet been repaired and continues to leak and is causing unsightly damage to the internal ceiling on the bedroom landing and office. This matter is now included as a requirement of this inspection report. Other recommendations that were made in relation to advocacy, individual protocols and deputising arrangements have been fully addressed.

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
31 (2001)	The registered person shall ensure that all parts of the children's home used by children are of sound construction and kept in good structural repair externally and internally, specifically ensuring the roof and internal damage caused is repaired. (Regulation 31(2)(d))	12/06/2014

Recommendations

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

- ensure the home is well maintained and decorated, in particular attention given to repairing damage to bedroom door frame and paintwork (NMS 10.3)

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*.