

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	26/03/2014
Inspector	Emeline Evans
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	07/08/2013
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Service information

Brief description of the service

The setting offers care and accommodation for up to six females aged from 8 to 17 years. Children and young people are normally placed at the home for medium- to long-term periods, although emergency and short-term placements are also provided. The home is run by a private organisation.

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 **good progress**.

At the full inspection in August 2013, the overall effectiveness rating for the home was judged as good. The home has demonstrated continued improvements in the quality of care and outcomes for young people this has included addressing the three requirements that were raised at the previous inspection.

Since the last inspection, the manager has been successfully registered with Ofsted. The manager and staff team are extremely positive about changes and are progressing in identifying and reflecting on current practice and development needs of the service. Young people continue to receive well planned care provided by a committed and competent staff team. Staff provide clear boundaries within a caring environment.

Young people are supported and made continuing progress across several areas of their lives, particularly in education and behaviour. Young people now have good attendance at school and are well supported to achieve their educational potential. There has been a decrease in young people going missing from care. Young people's

safety is given high priority and this includes effective working with external professionals. The manager has developed positive links with the local community officer. Regular meetings take place to ensure a holistic approach to reducing risk taking behaviours is achieved. Feedback from a professional commented, 'the young person is settled and we don't see the risky behaviour which had become a daily worry at the previous placement.'

The home has introduced a wide range of activities and opportunities for the young people to develop social skills and to pursue individual interests. Young people are supported to be involved in a variety of community activities and events, including horse riding, bowling, roller blading, swimming and shopping trips. These opportunities are valued by the young people and are contributing to developing the young people's self-esteem and confidence.

The home has a range of risk assessments in place. The front door has a lock in place, which is not currently used. Staff are aware this is not used to prevent young people leaving the building. However, the current building risk assessment does not support this practice to allow young people as much freedom as possible, consistent with the need to keep them safe.

The Registered Manager formally reviews Schedule 6 items on a regular basis, this results in awareness of key issues and any patterns or trends are identified. These are now being received into Ofsted. The manager is aware of the process in reporting notifiable events to the appropriate authorities. The manager has cascaded this information down to senior staff so they are aware of the process to follow; this ensures that the appropriate people are now notified immediately.

The Registered Manager and staff team can clearly identify strengths and areas for improvement within the home and were clear on the progress the home has made. However, there is currently not a development plan in operation in the home. Young people benefit from living within a well-kept, homely environment and the continuity of support provided by the staff team. Staff are highly motivated and clearly understand their roles and the expectations placed upon them. The staff team are very proud of the young people's achievements and have young people's well-being at heart. This is observed in the positive regard young people hold towards staff.

Areas for improvement

Recommendations

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

- ensure a risk assessment is completed which covers the lock on the external door, this should allow children as much freedom as possible, consistent with the need to keep them safe (Volume 5, statutory guidance, para 2.108)
- 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)

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*.