

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC003884
Inspection date	25/02/2013
Inspector	Christina Maddison
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	04/10/2012
--------------------------------	------------

© Crown copyright 2013

Website: www.ofsted.gov.uk

This document may be reproduced in whole or in part for non-commercial educational purposes, provided that the information quoted is reproduced without adaptation and the source and date of publication are stated.

Service information

Brief description of the service

This children's home is run by a private company. It is registered to provide care and accommodation for one child or young person 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 **good progress**.

The full inspection for this service took place in October 2012. The overall quality rating for the service was judged to be good, and two recommendations were made.

Young people have made very good progress from their starting points in all areas of their lives. This is as a result of good quality care from a committed manager and staff team who have high aspirations for young people in their care. Staff have been pro-active in ensuring that young people are appropriately placed in an educational establishment that meets their needs. As a result of this, young people are now making very good progress with their education and are settled and happy at school. Residential staff support young people's education staff by reading with young people each evening and providing a range of educational opportunities for young people. For example, young people help with the cooking of meals and are encouraged to weigh ingredients and gain numeracy skills through budgeting. The internet is now available in the home and is used by young people for educational purposes.

The home's development plan ensures that the maintenance and decoration of the

home is up to date. This means that the home provides a warm, homely and very well decorated and furnished environment for young people. Bedrooms are personalised and there are numerous photographs of young people displayed around the house. Young people said that this makes the house really feel like their home.

Staff continue to work hard to ensure that young people have constructive and positive relationships with their families and friends. Contact with families is supported by staff both at the house and in the community. Young people have learned social skills since coming to the home and now engage positively with neighbours and the local community. For example, young people play football for a local team and are part of the local scout movement. Other activities that young people enjoy are swimming and visits to local leisure facilities. This ensures that young people are kept busy and are channelling their energies positively.

Young people said that rules are fair in the home and they understand why sanctions are given. Young people learn to behave positively at the home. For example, the need for the restraint of young people has significantly reduced to a minimum and there have been no incidents of young people going missing from the home. Restraint logs now detail behaviour leading up to a restraint and which de-escalation strategies were tried by staff prior to the restraint. Behaviour is very well managed through the use of consistent boundaries and rules that are fully understood by young people and are consistently reinforced by all staff. Young people are able to earn rewards through positive behaviour and said they liked the idea of the reward chart system that is in use at the home. One placing social worker commented that 'the home is very efficient at implementing placement plans to achieve positive outcomes for young people.'

Health and safety is very well managed at the home. Risk assessments are in place for individual young people, the home and activities outside of the home. These documents detail assessed risks and how these risks are to be safely managed by staff. Young people know what action to take in the event of a fire to ensure their safety.

Health care needs of young people are fully met. Young people are encouraged to learn personal care skills and are encouraged to take part in the day-to-day running of the home. Their opinions and views are valued by staff and ideas and suggestions are implemented. For example, a young person said that he did not wish to attend a youth club and wished to attend scouts instead and this has been put into place.

Staff at the home are well trained and well supported by the manager through regular supervision. The manager undertakes regular monitoring of records and is constantly striving to ensure that the quality of care is maintained. An independent person undertakes monthly monitoring visits and sets actions for the manager to complete if there are any shortfalls found. Regular feedback is obtained from placing social workers, parents and young people in order to inform the improvement of the quality of care provided at the home. Both recommendations from the previous inspection are fully met.

There are no requirements or recommendations arising from this inspection.

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*.