

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC005589
Inspection date	10/02/2014
Inspector	Anthony Kyem
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	30/07/2013
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Service information

Brief description of the service

The home is registered with Ofsted to provide care and accommodation for up to two young people on a medium to long-term basis in preparation for future placements with foster carers, rehabilitation home with family, or independent living. The home is operated by a private provider.

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 home was judged to provide young people with good quality care, at its previous inspection in July 2013. The home has made good progress and addressed the previous recommendation made. The Statement of Purpose now reflects the individual skills, qualifications and relevant experience of the current staff group. The statement outlines what the home sets out to do for young people, including the arrangements made to promote their care and welfare. The overall competence and deployment of staff is such that it meets the needs of young people. The Registered Manager provides effective leadership of the home's operation, to promote the smooth and efficient running of the home.

Staff promote young people's positive behaviour. They share and implement the home's ethos, approach and philosophy in caring for young people. Staff work positively with young people, fostering a caring, warm, nurturing and non-punitive approach that young people respond positively towards. The use of sanctions and restraint if used at all are kept to an absolute minimum. Restraint is only ever used as a last resort to protect young people from accident or injury. Staff place young

people's safety at the centre of their practice.

Staff demonstrate a positive knowledge and understanding of safe working practice. Risks associated with young people's activities are identified clearly. Consequently, staff understand young people's vulnerabilities and know what action to take to address them. Proactive and creative safeguarding practice ensures that young people are kept safe and feel safe. Young people have a strong sense of personal safety.

The home maintains effective partnerships with the local police and other professional agencies to support and promote the safety of young people. A local police officer reports, 'no issues whatsoever. Staff are always welcoming and should be praised for the way they run the home, very professional in all aspects.'

The frequency with which young people go missing has reduced significantly. When young people do go missing staff take prompt action to promote their safe return. Staff follow and implement the home's missing from care policy, to promote young people's safety.

Young people benefit from well planned, personalised care that promotes their needs effectively. Young people enjoy constructive relationships with staff and they sustain their positive attachments. Care planning and practice is highly individualised to meet the needs of individual young people.

Young people report, 'I'm very happy and settled here. This is the best placement I've been in since being in care... I'm very grateful for (the home) for letting me live here and for looking after me the way I should be.'

The home provides young people with a homely and comfortable environment. Most aspects of the home are furnished to good quality standards. However, young people's private living accommodation does not take account of their needs and characteristics. As a result, there is one recommendation made in respect of young people's accommodation. There are no further requirements or recommendations. Young people continue to benefit from good quality provision that promotes positive outcomes for them.

Areas for improvement

Recommendations

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

- ensure the home provides a comfortable and homely environment and is well maintained and decorated. This relates specifically to young people's private living accommodation. (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*.