

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC008270
Inspection date	05/02/2013
Inspector	Rachel Ruth Britten
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	13/02/2012
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Service information

Brief description of the service

The setting is a family-sized home. Care is provided for two young people of either sex who have emotional and behavioural difficulties. A private company owns and operates this setting.

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 children's home has demonstrated continued improvements in the quality of care and outcomes for young people since the last inspection in November 2012. Young people continue to receive excellent support and consistency from staff in all areas of their lives. For example, staff encourage young people to make the most of all appropriate education and suitable contact with relatives and friends. Staff also undertake relevant and timely training to ensure that they can support and assist young people in all areas of their behaviours, health, learning and development of independence. This includes effective work with social workers and advocates to best secure good planning for young people. As a result, young people's emotional and physical health is the best it can be and they are well prepared for the future, despite the impediments posed by relationship difficulties, court proceedings, and care planning uncertainties.

There were no recommendations or requirements raised at the last inspection and the home was graded as outstanding. Young people continue to benefit from outstanding leadership and management in the home and young people who are newly admitted to the home settle fast because of it. The Registered Manager

continues to focus strongly on consultation with young people and stakeholders. She values any feedback received from the regulation 33 visitor's consultations. As a result, young people are confident and used to expressing their views both on paper, and verbally to visitors. For example, one young person says, 'they have been there for me really and they have said to me they will continue to be there for me (after I become independent)'. Another young person says, 'everyone's lovely and made me feel like home'.

The manager continues to make improvements to both the systems used in the home and to the fabric of the house itself. She has been influential in developing a number of strategies including: a more proportionate approach to risk assessment, and a format for using the views of young people directly in staff appraisals. In addition, the records of new staff working in the home now contain more detailed evidence of vetting details as outlined in the national minimum standards. Equally, the manager has negotiated successfully for the upgrade of the home's bathroom in order to provide an electric shower as an addition to the existing bath. She has also ensured careful impact assessments for new residents and made small adjustments to the staff team which have benefited each young person. Overall, the Registered Manager applies learning and experience from many quarters. For example, she consults with manager colleagues within the organisation, stakeholders such as police and social services, and inspectors of all three of the homes she manages. As a result, young people are safe here and benefit from an extremely well led staff team and a well organised home. One young person remarked confidently, 'everything is the same high standards'.

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*.