

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC008274
Inspection date	05/03/2014
Inspector	Graham Robinson
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	28/11/2013
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Service information

Brief description of the service

The home is one of five children's homes owned by a private company. It is registered to provide care for two young people with emotional 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 overall rating given following the previous inspection was outstanding. Since then the home has continued to move forward and has made good progress. For example, with the introduction of an extra strand to the supervision and appraisal programme, which gives staff extra responsibility to contribute pro-actively towards their own professional development. The home has also revised and updated a number of policies which have been shared with the staff group.

Young people are well settled and continue to thrive in long-term placements. They view the structure and boundaries in place as fair, providing them with a sense of security. Young people confirm they feel safe in the home. Serious behaviour management issues do not occur, which contributes significantly to young people living and enjoying a more ordered, socially acceptable life style. As a result, young people are not placing themselves at risk.

Although not tested since the previous inspection, the home has maintained its excellent working partnerships with placing authorities and the external services charged with keeping young people safe. This ensures the home can call upon a co-

ordinated, multi-agency response to any safeguarding or missing from home issues, should they occur. These arrangements contributed effectively towards the stability and safety of placements.

Young people are well settled, with their individual needs clearly identified. Difficulties, challenges and unrest are worked through sensitively and supportively. Young people recognise and appreciate this, speaking well about their experience of living in the home and the staff who care for them. The strong and trusting relationships developed between young people and staff, reflect the ethos and culture of a home where young people are supported to navigate through times of difficulty, in a supportive and non-judgemental way. This has resulted in young people enjoying continued improvements to their social, emotional and educational outcomes.

Young people are well informed and consulted about their future plans, giving them a feeling of worth, a sense of direction and personal goals to aim for. They confirm their views and opinions are regularly sought and taken account of regarding life in the home and when planning for their own future. For example, a young person was able to recognise the positive changes to their life since moving to the home, which has given them greater input into planning for their own future.

The home is well organised and managed. A small, stable staff group provides a consistency of care that young people appreciate. On entry to the home, visitors are welcomed into a warm, cosy and relaxed environment, where staff and young people actively enjoy being in each other's company. Young people confirm they can bring issues and concerns to the attention of staff in the knowledge and expectation they will be taken seriously and addressed positively.

At the previous inspection, no requirements or recommendations were made. Since then the home has made good progress and the standard of care noted then, continues to improve. Feedback received from staff and young people is positive and consistent. No new recommendations have been made.

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*.