

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC008484
Inspection date	27/02/2013
Inspector	Debbie Foster
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	19/11/2012
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Service information

Brief description of the service

This is a private children's home; the owner is also the Registered Manager. The home provides care for up to six young people with emotional or behavioural difficulties or learning disabilities.

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**.

This interim inspection focused on the progress made by the home since the last full inspection in November 2012, at which the overall judgement was good. The home has demonstrated good progress in ensuring there is continued development. The care and outcomes for young people continue to develop positively.

Young people flourish in a nurturing environment. From their starting point on admission to the home, they continue to make good and sustained progress in their lives. Young people make improvements in their education, behaviour and social skills, keeping safe, building sound family and peer group networks. The staff team are committed and caring. A young person said, 'I'm leaving tomorrow, the staff have looked after me for over eight years, they've been great.' Young people have strong and positive relationships with staff. This enables young people to address difficulties in their lives with people they have built trusting relationships with. Young people's risk taking behaviour continues to reduce.

Progress has been made in addressing two of the three recommendations from the previous inspection. Care and independence plans now demonstrate how care is

provided. Direct work sessions show the work undertaken and the progress young people are making, including developing budgeting skills. This is supporting young people to prepare for independence and leaving care. Young people's educational grades at the start of their placement are now recorded. Young people's educational attendance has increased. Staff actively assist with homework and revision. Young people are making good educational progress and this demonstrates that young people are helped by staff to achieve their educational goals.

One recommendation has not been implemented in full. Staff are generally trained and equipped with the skills required to meet the needs of the young people. However, they have not yet received specific training in how to care and support young people who self-harm.

Areas for improvement

Recommendations

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

- ensure there is a good quality learning and development programme which staff and volunteers are supported to undertake. Staff are equipped with the skills required to meet the needs of the children and purpose of the setting, and training keeps them up-to-date with professional, legal and practice developments. In particular, training in self-harm. (NMS 18.1)

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*.