

## Inspection report for children's home

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| <b>Unique reference number</b> | SC014848        |
| <b>Inspection date</b>         | 23/01/2012      |
| <b>Inspector</b>               | Liz Driver      |
| <b>Type of inspection</b>      | Interim         |
| <b>Provision subtype</b>       | Children's home |

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| <b>Date of last inspection</b> | 13/07/2011 |
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## 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 (March 2011)*.

## The inspection judgements and what they mean

|                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Good progress</b>         | 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. |
| <b>Satisfactory progress</b> | 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.                                  |
| <b>Inadequate progress</b>   | 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.                            |

## Service information

### Brief description of the service

This home is registered to provide care for up to six young women aged from 12 to 17 years, with emotional and behavioural difficulties. The home is part of a private company which has an independent fostering agency, a total of three residential homes and an independent school.

### Progress

Since their previous inspection the service is judged to be making **good** progress.

At the last full inspection carried out in July 2011 the overall judgement for the setting was good.

The one requirement and two recommendations made at the last inspection have been fully addressed. The requirement related to the provider submitting an application for a Registered Manager. An application has been received and the applicant successfully completed the required registration process in December 2011.

One recommendation raised at the last inspection related to the home's child protection procedures being submitted for consideration and comment to the Local Safeguarding Children's Board and to the Local Authority Designated Officer. The setting's procedures have been updated and are currently with two local authorities awaiting feedback. The setting was also asked to ensure that the children's guide contains information of how children can contact their Independent Reviewing Officer and the Children's Rights Director. The current children's guide now contains this information.

Young people continue to live within a supportive and nurturing environment. Relationships between staff and young people are amiable and constructive. Staff are aware of the group dynamics in the home and are on hand to de-escalate any potential issues. Staff are very aware of bullying situations that may occur and work extremely hard with young people to address any bullying behaviours that are expressed. There is a very clear and well-communicated 'no bullying' policy in place. Clear progress has been made concerning changing behaviours, such as unauthorised absences and physical interventions. A newly-implemented sanctions policy is proving very effective.

Educational attendance and achievement is generally good in relation to individual ability. Staff are proactive and consistent in supporting educational achievements. Young people receive good levels of support to ensure they attend school and staff positively address challenges and barriers to educational progress and achievement. Staff advocate for young people to ensure they receive education soon after arriving at the setting. If necessary, young people are encouraged to communicate with the

office of the Children's Rights Director to support them in gaining educational placements.

The setting has a clear development plan that staff can access easily. Since the last inspection, improvements have been made in relation to the medication administration training and report writing, resulting in improved writing skills and improved handovers. Further developments planned include increasing the activities on offer and promoting a better understanding of a healthy diet, cooking skills and food hygiene matters.

A very good standard of monitoring continues to be in place with, regular Regulation 33 reports highlighting any areas that the manager needs to address. A clear process is in place to ensure the manager responds to areas identified. Documentation relating to Regulation 34 monitoring is also submitted to Ofsted; the last one received in November 2011 gave a clear overview of behaviours, practices and developments.