

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC015254
Inspection date	17/12/2012
Inspector	Elaine Cray
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	13/06/2012
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Service information

Brief description of the service

This home is part of a large private children's care organisation and is registered to accommodate five boys with emotional and behavioural difficulties or a learning disability. The home offers a therapeutic service to boys with assessed needs linked to sexually-inappropriate behaviour. The home has a school on a site and this is registered with the Department for Education.

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 as good at the last full inspection which took place in May 2012. It is judged to be making good progress following this interim inspection. There were two recommendations made as a result of the last inspection. Both have been met.

Young people have positive views about the quality of care provided by the service. They value and enjoy their lives at the home and are enthusiastic and energised by their experiences and progress. For example, since the last inspection they have developed a range of independence skills, grown in confidence and joined a variety of clubs including karate, boxing and running. Some young people have been involved in the interview processes for staff, including interviewing applicants for the Youth Offending Team. An array of certificates displayed in young people's bedrooms show how proud they are of their achievements.

A key strength of the home is the strong and meaningful relationships between

young people and staff. Young people's comments include 'All the staff are great' and 'Staff are really proud; they always tell me when I do well.' Young people of all ages and abilities learn and develop because they live in a vibrant and enabling environment. Staff view young people positively. Relationships are respectful and non-judgemental resulting in young people developing a positive self-view and strong emotional resilience.

Young people continue to make excellent educational, social and emotional progress because they receive high quality care. Joint working between staff, young people and professionals is highly successful because young people are placed at the centre of the framework for care and safeguarding their welfare.

Behaviour is excellently managed. Young people are supported to explore their backgrounds, emotions and resulting actions. All young people engage in and value regular therapy and the support provided by the care staff. Consequences and physical interventions are very rarely used, and only as a very last resort.

Young people value how staff provide an array of alternative and positive ways to express behaviour. They are fully involved in assessing the risks they present and fully involved in identifying ways to address and manage their behaviours. Young people feel empowered and valued, resulting in a significant reduction in risk taking behaviours.

The staff are proactive yet tenacious in providing strategies for young people to learn, develop and become more independent. Education is central to young people's placements and all have good attendance and are making good personal progress. The relationship between safety, public protection and independence is complex for some young people and this is excellently managed by the service. Young people grow in maturity and embrace opportunities to become more independent and responsible members of society.

The Registered Manager and staff continue to maintain and improve the standard of care provided in order to promote excellent outcomes for young people. The impact of effective leadership in the home is exemplified by staff comments such as 'Staff are more empowered; therefore the young people are more empowered.'

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*.