

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC015254
Inspection date	19/03/2014
Inspector	Clive Lucas
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	09/10/2013
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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**.

At the previous inspection the home was judged to be good. Since that time the Registered Manager and staff have made good progress. At the previous inspection shortfalls were identified in relation to the administration and recording of medicines, the Statement of Purpose and records.

Since the last inspection the Registered Manager has been sending any updates to the Statement of Purpose to Ofsted. This allows Ofsted as the regulator to be aware of significant changes to the home or the way it operates. Incidents of restraints and sanctions are appropriately recorded to provide a clear account of what has happened. This aids effective monitoring so that the Registered Manager can be aware of staff practice and identify any areas for development to improve the care of young people.

There has been a significant overhaul of the procedures for handling and administering young people's medicines. Staff are aware of the new processes which

are effective in ensuring that young people receive their medicines according to their prescriptions. The system is regularly audited so that the Registered Manager knows how it is working. Staff have training which they say is of a good quality and is relevant to their work with young people.

The home is very settled, with low numbers of sanctions and restraints. There was a short period of relatively less settled behaviour which has now passed. There has not been a sanction used since mid January 2014. Staff use positive rewards for young people to recognise good behaviour and achievements, such as completing a full week at school or working hard for a charity event. Young people are encouraged to be involved in helping charities. Of particular note is the home's links with one charity which provides and trains assistance dogs. They bring puppies in to the home to help in socialising them and young people do some fund-raising for the charity. This provides young people with the therapeutic and enjoyable interaction with the puppies and also helps them to understand the needs of others. A representative has made positive written comments about the home.

Young people are listened to and they are involved in the development of the home. Some young people have recently worked with a member of staff to improve the bathrooms in order to give them a more homely feel. Young people are also involved in choosing furnishings for the house. The accommodation is homely and provides a comfortable environment for young people. Staff and the Registered Manager have good working relationships with other agencies such as the police and placing social workers. These agencies speak well of the practice in the home and the communication they have with staff.

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*.