

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC016697
Inspection date	18/02/2013
Inspector	Barbara Davies
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	12/07/2012
--------------------------------	------------

© Crown copyright 2013

Website: www.ofsted.gov.uk

This document may be reproduced in whole or in part for non-commercial educational purposes, provided that the information quoted is reproduced without adaptation and the source and date of publication are stated.

Service information

Brief description of the service

This is a privately owned children's home which is registered to provide care and accommodation for up to four young people with emotional and/or behavioural difficulties. The home continues to be fully occupied.

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**.

A full inspection of the home took place in July 2012 and at this time the overall effectiveness of the home was judged as good. At that time three requirements and two recommendations for improvement were made. In the interim period, the home has addressed all of the matters and is therefore assessed as making good progress following this interim inspection.

Improvements in the information recorded within the records of sanctions and physical intervention means that the home's practice now fully conforms to regulations. Monitoring and evaluation of these records and the home's practice is now more fully informed and the Registered Manager is in a better position to evaluate whether young people are being treated fairly.

The Registered Manager has also introduced a system for reporting on the quality of care. The first six monthly report has just been completed and forwarded to Ofsted. The report shows a good understanding of reflective practice with changes being made, where necessary, to improve outcomes for young people.

Quality assurance visits in line with Regulation 33 have ceased as the responsible individual is in day-to-day charge of the home and this is not required. The responsible individual is, however, considering the re-introduction of these visits as a means of obtaining independent feedback on practice.

In addition, the home's provision has been improved with an additional downstairs bathroom facility. Young people have all made tremendous personal growth, particularly in relation to their education. Some young people have made a successful transition to further education while others have successfully been re-introduced to mainstream school after extremely lengthy periods of exclusion. Educational placements have been a success as a result of exceedingly effective and creative re-integration support packages, joint-working with schools and high levels of classroom support from the residential care staff. All young people maintain regular attendance and are achieving well.

Other young people have moved into independence and continue to maintain regular contact with the home. Young people make a successful transition due to the high levels of commitment and support that staff continue to give. They maintain attendance in further education, remain committed to their education and have aspirations for their future. Staff continue to champion the rights of young people after they have left the service and advocate on their behalf.

The home provides a safe environment for children. There have been no incidents of young people going missing, however, the home's protocols and individual risk assessments have been updated in line with the 'Runaway and Missing from Home and Care' guidance that has been published by the Department for Education. This is indicative of the home keeping abreast of practice developments. Behaviour is managed well and staff have a thorough understanding of the needs of the young people who they care for. Physical restraint and sanctions are used sparingly, appropriately and mostly as a means of preventing injury as a result of health-related incidents. These incidents are well monitored by the home, placing authorities and health professionals to ensure young people's safety.

Young people receive highly personalised care and progress as a result of this. The home is now better able to demonstrate the positive progress that young people make through the comprehensive outcome-based review of practice that is completed and forwarded to placing authorities.

No requirements or recommendations for improvement have been made following this inspection.

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*.