

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC018241
Inspection date	17/09/2013
Inspector	Simon Morley
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	15/05/2013
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Service information

Brief description of the service

This is a privately owned children's home. It is registered to provide accommodation for up to four children and young people with emotional and behavioural difficulties. When young people need additional support to move into more independent living they can stay at the home after they are 18.

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 received a full inspection in May 2013 and was judged good for the overall effectiveness. There were two required improvements in relation to how the service and registered provider consult children and young people, their parents and placing authorities. Three recommendations were also raised to improving outcomes for children and young people. These were about children and young people using appropriate health services; pursuing their interests; and improving their ability to live more independently. Since that inspection there is a new group of children and young people living in the home, all of whom moved there in the last two months.

The registered provider and manager have improved outcomes for young people by meeting all the recommendations. Additionally the quality assurance systems have improved with more robust procedures and better evidence of consultation. This ensures the views of children and young people and other stakeholders have a strong influence on how care is provided. This stronger partnership working has helped agree boundaries around areas such as family contact, behaviour and use of social networking on the internet. As a result this has helped young people build

better relationships with their relatives and improve their behaviour.

Children and young people have better access to and use health services to meet their individual needs.

Support from staff has helped children and young people to get glasses, have their medication effectively reviewed and improve their diets and exercise.

There is a good range of activities that children and young people like to take part in. Young people commented 'there is loads to do here, more than I have ever done before'. Staff help children and young people to pursue their interests in boxing, rugby, swimming, horse riding, going to the gym and joining the cadets.

Children and young people also develop their independence skills according to their age and needs. This includes being more responsible for their personal care and hygiene, making their own packed lunch, washing clothes, travelling independently and doing jobs. Staff also encourage children and young people to improve their behaviour through sensible discussion and individual incentives. This is helping children and young people take more responsibility for their actions by learning about appropriate behaviour that will meet society's expectations.

There have been short-term improvements for children and young people with regard to re-engaging with education and a significant reduction in the frequency they are missing from home. Children and young people have experienced previous hardship and placement instability. They are still settling into a home where the staff have a positive track record in providing the care and support they need to experience good outcomes in their lives.

There have been three separate, recent incidents regarding the welfare of children and young people that required Ofsted to be notified. At the time of the inspection the manager was processing only one of these notifications. This delay has not had an impact on outcomes for children and young people. The shortfalls in maintaining records has been addressed by increasing the staffing levels, which is also providing children and young people with higher levels of support.

The staff remain committed to promoting good outcomes for children and young people with good support from the management team. Staff work closely and effectively with social workers and other agencies in order to achieve this. They have been complimented by stakeholders for their efforts and hard work, providing children and young people with good quality care. Following this interim inspection, this home is judged to be making good progress. There is one identified area of improvement with regard to ensuring Ofsted is appropriately notified of events that impact on the welfare of children and young people.

Areas for improvement

Statutory Requirements

This section sets out the actions which must be taken so that the registered person/s meets the Care Standards Act 2000, Children's Homes Regulations 2001 and the National Minimum Standards. The registered person(s) must comply with the given timescales.

Reg.	Requirement	Due date
30 (2001)	notify Her Majesty's Chief Inspector without delay if any of the events listed in Schedule 5 of this regulation take place (Regulation 30 (1))	31/10/2013

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*.