

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC018241
Inspection date	31/01/2013
Inspector	Russell Shackford
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	27/06/2012
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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**.

This home was judged as adequate at the full inspection and is judged to have made good progress at this interim inspection. The home has improved the quality of care and outcomes for young people and has addressed all of the requirements and recommendations made at the previous inspection. These were about ensuring that the manager of the home is registered, care planning, education, information for young people, staff training and the monitoring of the quality of care at the home.

Ofsted has received an application to register the manager of the home in line with the requirements of the Care Standards Act 2000. The application is being processed.

The manager has developed the referral recording system used to include further questioning for information, risk assessment and required documentation before young people are admitted to the home. Where necessary, senior managers lend their support to obtain all of the required information. This helps to ensure that the home only provides admission to children whose assessed needs they can reasonably expect to meet and there is consideration of the needs of the existing group of

young people. Agreed written placement plans are on file for all young people living at the home.

Young people's education attendance has been well supported by determined staff. As a result, young people are achieving very good attendance records in full time education. Education achievements are increasing because staff are effective in using young people's personal education plans to help them meet their individually agreed targets. Staff contribute to an achievement tracker which helps to identify progress and shortfalls. This helps education staff to provide individualised support for young people. Records of educational attainment and progress are on file where appropriate. Other young people at the home are being successfully supported to gain employment or further education.

Good quality written independent living programmes help young people to learn skills required for adulthood.

The sequentially structured programme contains evidence of progress in a variety of forms suitable to the understanding of the young person. This helps to ensure that young people develop the knowledge and skills they need to prepare them for adulthood.

The children's guide to the home has been created in different formats which include written and comic strip style pictorial versions. It can be easily translated into different languages or symbol and picture format if required. This helps to ensure that information is provided to young people in suitable formats that meet their communication needs, age and understanding.

Staff training and support is described as, 'very good' by staff at the home. All existing care staff have attained a level 3 qualification and any new staff start working towards the level 3 Children & Young Peoples Workforce Diploma within 6 months of their employment. This helps to ensure that young people are looked after by appropriately qualified staff at all times.

The registered person has improved the report template to focus more attention on how well the home supports children to enjoy and achieve. The reports seen contained specific details and evaluation of these matters. This helps to ensure that young people's progress and outcomes are fully monitored.

There were no shortfalls identified at 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*.