

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC020151
Inspection date	26/03/2014
Inspector	Amanda Ellis
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	10/07/2013
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Service information

Brief description of the service

The home is privately owned. It provides care and accommodation for up to eight young people with emotional and/ or behavioural difficulties.

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 **satisfactory progress**.

At the last inspection in July 2013 the overall rating for the home was judged as good, with one statutory requirement and one recommendation set within the inspection report. The manager has appropriately addressed the requirement and the recommendation raised at the previous inspection.

Improvements to internal monitoring processes include consultation with young people, staff, parents and stakeholders. Supervision records are now more detailed, thereby providing an accurate account of the meeting. These improvements provide evidence of the provider's capacity for continual improvement.

The home provides care to meet the needs of young people who have emotional and behavioural needs and require a high degree of safeguarding. This home continues to provide individualised quality care, with a clear commitment to delivering positive outcomes for young people.

Young people live in a safe, secure and stable environment. Safeguarding procedures are robust and well understood. Safeguarding issues are notified promptly. Incidents

of young people missing from care are minimised through a skilled staff team who are aware of the factors that lead to young people going missing. The home implements effective protocols and procedures when young people are absent from care, which includes proactive work with a range of safeguarding professionals to manage these issues.

Young people make good progress in their education; with young people attending the providers own school, which is registered with the Department of Education. In some cases, there has been excellent progress with young people excelling in their achievements. Where young people are making choices in relation to further education, the home works closely with appropriate agencies to find suitable college provision.

Young people benefit from engaging in a range of stimulating indoor and outdoor activities. These include activities such as horse riding, canoeing, Duke of Edinburgh award scheme and regular trips to places of interest. They choose their activities according to their interests and staff participate alongside the young people. This means young people are supported and are able to experience a wide range of leisure and learning activities that promote their development, health and enjoyment.

Independence skills form part of the daily routine of the home. Young people learn to take some responsibility for tasks such as cleaning their bedrooms, managing their laundry, and helping with tidying the home. Additionally, they are encouraged and supported to apply for part-time employment and in some cases; young people have secured local employment. Consequently, young people acquire the necessary life skills to live independently.

Management arrangements in the home have changed since the last inspection. The current manager has been in post since January 2014 and has submitted an application to Ofsted in respect of Registered Manager status. The manager is implementing a range of strategies to improve care practice and staff development. Staff confirm that they feel supported and that the managers professional skills and expertise are having a positive impact on the development of the home.

Shortfalls identified within this inspection include internal and external monitoring reports that have not been consistently submitted to Ofsted. This omission restricts opportunities for effective monitoring of the home by the regulatory body. However, outcomes for young people have not been affected by these oversights.

The home's Statement of Purpose is comprehensive and reflects the facilities offered to young people and their parents and carers. However, a copy of this document has not been submitted to Ofsted as required under regulation. This means the regulator cannot be clear about the aims, objectives and operation of the home.

Young people benefit from a homely, spacious and comfortable environment. The interior and exterior of the home is of a high specification and provides secure and safe accommodation. The interior of the home is personalised, with high standards of décor and furnishings.

The home has made satisfactory progress since the last inspection. The manager is clear about what is necessary to ensure that young people receive high standards of care. There are three requirements made because of this inspection.

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
34 (2001)	supply to HMCI a report in respect of any review conducted by him for the purposes of paragraph (1) (Regulation 34 (2))	25/04/2014
33 (2001)	ensure that a copy of the regulation 33 visit is supplied to Ofsted (Regulation 33 (5) (a))	25/04/2014
4 (2001)	ensure that a copy of the Statement of Purpose is provided to Ofsted which shall consist of a statement as to the matters listed in Schedule 1. (Regulation 4 (1) (2))	25/04/2014

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*.