

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	05/03/2013
Inspector	Susan Mullin
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	05/12/2012
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Service information

Brief description of the service

This privately-operated home provides care for up to five male young people with emotional and behavioural difficulties; specifically a specialist service to young people who have a range of complex needs and who can present significant risks to themselves and others. Young people have exclusive access to a registered school that is also managed by the organisation.

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 last full inspection in October 2012 the overall quality rating for the service was judged as outstanding. No statutory requirements or recommendations were made. The home has made good progress since the last inspection and continues to improve the quality of care practices, including the empowerment of young people and the promotion of independent living skills.

Young people really do benefit from their time at the home. Staff are proactive and imaginative in finding ways to support young people in making progress in all aspects of their lives. All young people engage in and value regular therapy sessions, alongside the consistent support provided by the care staff. Young people develop emotional resilience as they are helped to make sense of their emotions and feelings. As a result, young people come to understand and deal with the difficulties they have faced and look forward to a brighter future.

Young people's attendance in educational provisions is exceptionally good. From their

starting points, young people make significant progress and move on to further education placements. Young people report a great sense of pride in their educational achievements and have aspirations and ambitions for their future careers. Close and regular communication between the staff team and education providers further ensures that young people receive the support they need to achieve and progress.

Young people said they are happy living in the home and that they feel safe. Staff are skilled at protecting young people from the risk of harm, while at the same time enabling them to take controlled risks in preparation for their next stages of life. One of the strengths of the staff team lies in their ability to quickly develop open and positive relationships with young people. One young person said, 'The staff have helped me no end. If it was not for them I could have been in a lot of trouble.' Other young people confirmed that they felt respected and valued, which helps them to grow in confidence and trust.

Young people's behaviour continues to improve as they are fully involved in identifying ways to address and manage their behaviours. Young people said that they were proud of the significant improvements in their behaviour. They confidently and competently manage their own free time and take part in less risk taking activities. Staff are extremely skilled and are strong advocates in challenging barriers which may hinder young people's progress and their future prospects. This involves collaborative working with social workers, families and other relevant professionals. For example, staff work holistically with the families and have enable one young person to reconnect with his family. As a result, young people are able to forge new and meaningful relationships with people who are significant to them.

Empowerment of young people continues to be high on the home's agenda. Systems and practices actively enable young people to have a say in the running of the home and in the planning of their futures. Young people's meetings are held regularly and provide a forum where their requests and suggestions have been listened to and acted upon. For example, one young person told staff that he wanted a career in the army and staff arranged for him to join the army cadets. The young person said, 'I really enjoyed the cadets night and I can't wait to get my uniform for the army.' Consequently, young people feel listened to and gain a real sense of belonging.

The home provides a comfortable and spacious environment in which young people are settled. The games room has been redecorated and provides a spacious area for young people to engage in games of pool and provides lots of recreational supplies to keep them purposefully occupied. There is also a further games area where the young people engage in console games. One young person's bedroom has been redecorated incorporating new furniture, carpet and coordinated soft furnishings. This encourages young people to take pride in the upkeep of their rooms. One young person said 'I like my room, I can go there when I want to but I often stay downstairs in the games room or in the front room.' This demonstrates that young people are comfortable and happy to share their home environment with their peers.

The Registered Manager undertakes regular reviews and monitoring of the home.

Detailed reports produced ensure that there is a focus on key areas and actions needed. The monthly regulation 33 visits and reports contain detailed information and set recommendations for improvement. The Registered Manager ensures that all recommendations made from these visits are acted on in a timely manner. Reports of the visits are sent to Ofsted as are notifications of any serious events. The home is operating in accordance with its conditions of registration and the registered persons remain fit for registration.

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*.