

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC020576
Inspection date	20/01/2014
Inspector	Carole Moore
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	15/11/2013
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Service information

Brief description of the service

This privately operated home provides care for up to five young men with emotional and behavioural difficulties; it provides a specialist service to young people who present significant risks to others. Young people have exclusive access to a registered school that is also managed by the organisation and each meets with a therapist every week.

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 inspection in November 2013, the overall quality rating for the service was judged as good. There were two recommendations made at that visit, which have now been fully addressed. The home has made progress with ensuring that there are effective procedures for monitoring patterns and trends in behaviour management and evaluating them. This is now part of the managers' monitoring processes. The aim is to improve the analysis of the quality of care. This is to help shape staff practice for the future. There is a new system in place to record key worker sessions and these now clearly reflect the aims and objectives in the placement plans and how outcomes are either met, partially met or fully met. This gives a really clear measurement of change. All these actions show the staffs commitment to improving outcomes for young people.

Progress since the previous inspection is good. The home continues to offer young people good quality care and good outcomes. Young people's health, social development and welfare are fully supported. Young people are making good

progress in their lives.

Young people are progressing well overall in their education. All young people are either attending school or college. Their attendance levels are generally good. If any young person is reluctant to attend, incentives are used to encourage young people. As a result, young people know and understand the importance of their education.

Young people's safety is given a high priority. All young people have a personalised risk assessment which is reviewed as circumstances change. Staff members are alert and vigilant in relation to young people's interactions with each other and their peers.

Young people's engagement and participation is good. Young people are confident about asserting their rights. They help to create change with discussions about activities, influencing the décor in the home and setting ground rules. They are also encouraged to be part of the recruitment processes, staff appraisals and youth forum events. Young people's meetings take place regularly and they are fully encouraged to set the agenda and take the minutes. As a result, young people are empowered to feel involved.

The homes' quality assurance programme is good. An independent visitor visits the home once a month. They spend time with young people and staff and examine a range of records. Any shortfalls that are identified are quickly addressed. A key strength of the home is the partnership working relationship with education, health, youth justice services and the therapeutic support services.

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*.