

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC020606
Inspection date	25/03/2014
Inspector	Julian Mason
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	28/11/2013
--------------------------------	------------

© Crown copyright 2014

Website: www.ofsted.gov.uk

This document may be reproduced in whole or in part for non-commercial educational purposes, provided that the information quoted is reproduced without adaptation and the source and date of publication are stated.

Service information

Brief description of the service

This children's home provides care and accommodation for up to three young people with emotional and behavioural difficulties. The home is owned by a private childcare 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 **satisfactory progress**.

The home was judged as good overall at the last full inspection in November 2013 and the one requirement made as a result of this visit has been actioned. The central record now clearly identifies how young people's behaviour meets the threshold for the use of physical restraint without the use of jargon. Although only one physical intervention has occurred since the last inspection, the record provides a clear description of the circumstances and the outcome achieved. Overall, young people are supported and encouraged to behave well because staff are fair and proportionate in their approach to helping them manage their behaviour.

Currently, there are temporary management arrangements in place because the Registered Manager has been seconded to another role within the organisation. However, the acting manager and acting deputy manager will be reverting back to their substantive posts at the beginning of April when the Registered Manager returns to the home.

Although changes to roles and responsibilities within the team have occurred, young

people continue to be looked after by a well-established and experienced team. Young people continue to receive care from a committed group of staff who consistently support and prioritise their safety and welfare. Staff remain focused and encouraging in terms of helping each young person move forward in their lives. Young people are helped to make sense of their circumstances and to overcome previous experiences that have had a negative impact on their lives. The staff team are reassuring and helpful because they understand their role and responsibilities in meeting young people's needs and keeping them safe.

At the moment, young people's attendance, attainment and engagement at school varies, which has an impact on what they can achieve now and in the future. Managers and staff liaise with teachers and education providers to help develop individual programmes for each young person. Young people's educational entitlements are strongly promoted. For some young people this is working well as they have been able to maintain good attendance at school or access and attend vocational training. For other young people who are reluctant to attend formal education, interventions and arrangements are not currently working well enough to make any significant difference.

Young people are fully consulted about their day-to-day arrangements and the running of the home. The acting manager and staff have effective systems in place to ensure young people can communicate their views and opinions about the care and support they receive. The staff team are with young people all the time and listen to what they have to say. The home is organised in a way that responds to young people positively and they receive regular feedback about their views and suggestions. Young people know how to make a complaint if they are unhappy about something. They are listened to and complaints are resolved quickly and to young people's satisfaction.

Young people are safe and feel safe in the home because the acting manager and staff team have a clear focus on potential and actual risks facing each individual. Staff are able to adjust and adapt their practices to ensure risks are managed and young people's welfare promoted. Staff know what to do if they are concerned about a young person. Some young people who have histories of being missing from care are at less risk now because staff have been successful at helping them change their behaviours.

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*.