

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC020608
Inspection date	04/02/2014
Inspector	Robin Whistlecraft
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	12/07/2013
--------------------------------	------------

© 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 home is part of a range of children's services within a private care organisation. The home is registered to offer care and accommodation to four young people with emotional and behavioural difficulties; three are accommodated in the main house, one in a satellite unit some distance away.

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, on 12 July 2013, the overall quality of the home was judged as adequate with three requirements for areas for improvement. Since then the home's management have addressed all the requirements, improved the quality of care and young people are making progress.

There is a range of improvements for young people living at the home. Some young people benefit from improved safeguarding outcomes. Young people develop self-confidence and explore more positive ways to manage behaviour. These changes in behaviour positively impact on young people's ability to develop friendships outside of the home. They have better outcomes because they stop offending behaviour and there is a reduction in going missing from the home.

Improved confidence, social relationships and self-esteem positively impact on young people's ability to re-focus on learning. Some young people have had substantial gaps in attending and achieving in education. They now make positive choices about the residential education available at this service. Education remains a challenge for

some young people. However better attendance and successful learning are positive outcomes due good encouragement from staff and engagement with schools and workplace learning.

The young people who contributed to this inspection confirmed that they feel safe in this home, and that there is no bullying. Managers carry out appropriate pre-recruitment checks on new staff before they allow them to work with young people. The home's procedures for dealing with young people who go missing are in line with the local police protocols. Managers meet with other agencies to review and revise individual young people's risk assessments and protocols for dealing with episodes of going missing. These factors demonstrate how the home operates procedures to keep young people safe.

Managers maintain staffing levels to meet young people's needs and ensure that staff receive core training, regular supervision and annual appraisals. Managers also keep up to date with legislation and bring changes to the attention of the staff. In these ways, managers provide young people with a competent staff team.

The provider monitors the conduct of the home through regular visits by someone independent of the management of the home. Managers bring any recommendations from these visits to the attention of the staff team and subsequently address them. The home's managers periodically review the quality of care provided in the home. They do this by analysing a range of records and identifying actions to improve the quality of care, such as staff training. These factors show how the home supports young people through effective oversight.

The home's quality of care is developing. The home has addressed the requirements made at the last inspection, improving the quality of records about the use of measures of control and adding information to the home's statement of purpose. Managers have upgraded the fire doors in the main house and replaced the windows and patio doors in the satellite home with double glazed units. A bathroom has been re-tiled, a room equipped with computer and flat screen TV for games consoles, and various areas redecorated.

Other developments include using the home's 'Blue Book' data-monitoring system to help young people reflect on their progress by using graphs and charts. Managers consult young people about the home's development plan to assist prioritising actions. Managers involve other agencies in developing strategies to enable some young people to take risks, commensurate with their age, but who have provided challenges in the past. These developments show how the home improves the quality of its care while supporting young people.

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*.