

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC023636
Inspection date	29/01/2014
Inspector	Janet Hunnam
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	18/09/2013
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Service information

Brief description of the service

The home is registered to provide care and accommodation for 10 children who have emotional and behavioural difficulties. It is operated by a charitable 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**.

At the last inspection, the home was judged as outstanding for overall effectiveness. One recommendation was made relating to the induction of new staff and this has been met. Senior staff are supporting new employees to complete the Children's Workforce Development Council's induction standards within six months. This ensures new staff have the necessary knowledge to effectively support children at the home.

Since the last inspection, concerns were raised in relation to the home's recording and monitoring of physical intervention as a measure of control. Following investigation, Ofsted issued two compliance notices regarding the use and recording of restraint. The organisation has rigorously examined the process for recording and reviewing all incidents of physical intervention. An amended recording system is now in place to record full details of the incident, including the child's view and the debrief with staff. This improved process allows managers to closely monitor all incidents of physical intervention to ascertain if they are proportionate, safe and protect children. The staff team now meet managers weekly to review and analyse all restraints, consider their effectiveness and alternative strategies. Staff update

children's individual behaviour management plans following these reviews. Consequently, staff are reflecting on their practice allowing them to implement strategies to support children when they are displaying high risk-taking behaviour. As a result of the positive action taken, the compliance notices have now been met.

In addition, three requirements were also made and have been met. The Registered Manager and deputy manager have now undertaken training in physical intervention. This ensures they have the necessary understanding and knowledge to effectively monitor restraints and safeguard children. Children now receive appropriate support following an incident of physical intervention, staff discuss the incident with the child and record fully their comments. This promotes their physical, emotional and mental health. A new internal system to monitor the quality of care is being introduced which will identify and evaluate patterns and trends and address any shortfalls.

The home continues to provide a high standard of therapeutic care for children with complex individual needs enabling them to make significant progress. Experienced managers and well-trained staff comprehensively identify children's specific needs. The children's needs are central to all thinking and planning to promote positive outcomes. Children participate in a wide range of activities in the community, gaining confidence and self-esteem as they succeed in the activities of their choice.

The lounge and the community room have recently been decorated. The new, high quality furnishings provide bright, modern and inviting surroundings for children to relax in and feel safe.

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*.