

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC023736
Inspection date	13/02/2014
Inspector	David Putnam
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	11/09/2013
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Service information

Brief description of the service

This is a privately owned children's home which is registered for up to three young people with emotional and/or behavioural difficulties.

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 the overall effectiveness of this home was judged to be good. One requirement and two recommendations were made. The Registered Manager has taken effective action to ensure these have been comprehensively addressed.

In regular reviews of the quality of care, the views of young people, their parents and placing authorities now play a large part in driving improvements within the home. Young people describe how their ideas influence day-to-day decisions around their care in addition to fundamental changes, such as the design, layout and décor of their living room. Parents also describe how their suggestions are taken on board and bring about practical solutions to problems they identify.

Leaders and managers clearly communicate expectations to the staff team around the completion of safety checks within the home. Responsibility now lies with designated individuals to ensure that such checks are not missed and the safety and welfare of young people is promoted. Organisational learning is enhanced through the sharing of information. As a result, templates for recording regular checks and the timescales for their completion have both been amended by senior managers. This ensures that checks in the home are now in line with organisational policies and procedures.

The quality and content of written records relating to young people has improved significantly. This helps to provide a clear understanding of the experiences of young people during their time in this home. The improvements identified are as a direct result of pro-active steps taken by leaders and managers. Team discussions highlight the importance of quality and consistency. Staff members value the individual support they receive and say that this assists them in developing their written skills. Monthly monitoring visits from an independent person continue to consider the quality of written work and also identify the steady, but lasting progress that is made.

The Registered Manager demonstrates a continued commitment to improving the quality of care and outcomes for young people. Through a focused development plan, objectives for refining the service are set out with clear targets for completion. Through this accessible document the Registered Manager competently communicates positive aspirations for young people to the whole staff team. Pathway plans for young people have been enhanced. They are now detailed portfolios resulting from extensive individual work with young people. Areas of strength are assessed alongside specific skills and areas of knowledge that require improvement. This provides a clear focus of work to promote the confidence and independence of young people. Through these improvements to the pathway planning process, the whole staff team are now able to contribute to the support offered to young people. Managers and staff effectively share details of the work completed with placing authorities. This helps to inform formal meetings and the development of future plans.

Placing social workers identify the quality of communication from the home as a key strength. This adds to the information they have obtained through their own visits to the home and enables them to conclude that young people make good progress in all areas of their lives. Comments from placing social workers about the home include, 'I think work is of the highest standard' and 'I have nothing negative to say about the home; I am very, very pleased with the service.' No shortfalls against the Children's Homes Regulations or national minimum standards are identified.

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*.