

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC028505
Inspection date	17/03/2014
Inspector	Keith Riley
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	12/11/2013
--------------------------------	------------

© 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

The home is registered to accommodate four young males. The home is privately owned and is one of three children's homes run by the service provider.

The home provides a service to young men who may display emotional and behavioural difficulties. All young people see a therapist weekly and attend therapeutic groups as part of the home's assessment and treatment programme. Young people go to the organisation's school if they are not in college or work experience.

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 home was judged as good for overall effectiveness. One recommendation was made.

There has been a change in practice by the organisation in the deployment of staff. This means there is far less dependency on agency staff in the home. Young people benefit from a consistent staff team, with many years of experience, and with whom they form good attachments.

Young people continue to develop excellent life skills in accordance with the home's Statement of Purpose. Key skills such as budgeting, cooking and driving are approached enthusiastically by young people. Comprehensive life skills programmes guide staff to ensure young people are as ready as possible for living independently

on their own. The Registered Manager ensures that each young person has a pathway plan and that this is updated regularly. Young people are fully aware of the clear plans for their future and are totally supported by staff committed to their needs. This gives young people every chance of success. All young people are in college and making excellent progress. Vocational interests and college placements are fully supported in the home, for example by supporting and empowering young people to build computers or play educational simulation games relevant to their course.

Young people are supported to celebrate significant events, such as birthdays, and increase their circle of friends. They demonstrate an excellent level of maturity, for example in supporting their peers in the home to pursue their activities and responding appropriately to others, outside the home, who make negative comments to them.

Staff continue to receive excellent training, such as training in understanding the behaviour of young people. Young people are encouraged to attend therapy and this is successful, for example, young people who have previously found it difficult to engage in therapy are now able to share their thought processes, and go onto further therapy, such as cognitive behaviour therapy. Consequently, there is no repeat of the harmful behaviour that young people have historically engaged with.

The Registered Manager continues to promote a culture of excellence and continuous improvement, for example changes have already been made to statutory reports, such as regulation 34, in preparation for imminent changes to the regulations. There have been changes to the environment such as fixing new damp course and new lights. Young people live in a warm and homely environment that is well maintained and decorated. Contingency plans proved to be successful when the electricity supply was lost during inclement weather.

Young people live in a home that is well managed and calm. There is no need for sanctions or physical intervention. Young people are developing independent living skills and a mature approach giving them every chance of life success.

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*.