

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC029504
Inspection date	20/03/2014
Inspector	Mark Ryder
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	20/11/2013
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Service information

Brief description of the service

This is a home that provides for young people with emotional and/or behavioural difficulties. It is registered to accommodate up to four children and young people. It is run by a private company.

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 this home was judged as outstanding with no recommendations or requirements made. Young people continue to be safeguarded and protected by a competent and well led staff team.

Staff promote effective and proportionate boundaries for young people to safely live within. A young person confirmed that they feel safe at this home and that the rules are fair. Risk assessments have been developed and reviewed in light of previous risk taking behaviour by young people. This has helped to reduce this type of behaviour.

Young people are kept safe if they go missing. The police are notified and arrangements made to check local areas. The level of such incidents has reduced of late. There is good and effective working relationships with local agencies, such as the police, that further promote the safety of young people. For example, the police visit the home frequently on an informal basis to maintain contact with staff and young people.

Young people say that the most positive aspect of living in this home is the caring

and dedicated staff. Relationships between staff and young people are friendly and appropriate. Staff have a good understanding about the qualities they need to have in order to be effective in working with young people. Staff continue to be trained and supported to do their job well.

Monitoring of the home by leaders and managers provides clear evaluation as to both strengths and areas for improvement. Internal monitoring is very effective and consultation is used effectively to enable young people, parents and other professionals to influence the development of the service. This process has a direct positive impact on the quality of care and the outstanding outcomes that the young people experience.

While monthly monitoring visits have been carried out by a senior member of the organisation, the latest report has not been sent to the home or to Ofsted within the specified time. Therefore, the Registered Manager could not share any findings from this visit with the staff. This, however, is an administrative error and has no bearing on the progress of this home.

The leaders and managers have a very good awareness of the direction they wish their home to go in. A comprehensive and user friendly development plan is in place, and this demonstrates the areas in which the home has improved. Young people are at the centre of this plan and they make a positive contribution to the home's development. For example, some young people are interested in gardening which has been taken on board and recently actioned.

As a consequence of this inspection one recommendation has been made. This recommendation does not relate to the welfare or safety of young people.

Areas for improvement

Recommendations

To improve the quality and standards of care further the service should take account of the following recommendation(s):

- ensure that a written report of a visit carried out under Regulation 33 is lodged in the home for the manager and staff to read and to respond. (NMS 21.8)

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*.