

## Inspection report for children's home

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| <b>Unique reference number</b> | SC030797        |
| <b>Inspection date</b>         | 13/02/2012      |
| <b>Inspector</b>               | Kevin Whatley   |
| <b>Type of inspection</b>      | Interim         |
| <b>Provision subtype</b>       | Children's home |

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| <b>Date of last inspection</b> | 20/12/2011 |
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## Service information

### Brief description of the service

This children's home provides care and accommodation for up to nine young people, of either sex, aged eight years to 18 years, who present with emotional and behavioural difficulties. The home is owned by a private organisation.

### The inspection judgements and what they mean

|                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Good progress</b>         | 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. |
| <b>Satisfactory progress</b> | 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.                                  |
| <b>Inadequate progress</b>   | 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 which was carried out in December 2011 the home was judged as good. At this inspection the home was asked to improve the manner in which young people have their cultural needs met and for an application to be made for the manager to be registered with Ofsted. Additionally the home was asked to consider the way in which young people are supported to learn practical skills. These issues have been addressed and the home has made satisfactory progress since the last inspection.

Nine young people are currently accommodated in the home; two young people were present during the inspection and were spoken to.

When young people are admitted to the home a full needs assessment is completed, this includes a review of their cultural and religious needs and wishes and how these will be met by staff. Young people who wish to follow specific diets due to religious beliefs benefit from individualised menus which are tailored to reflect their choices. Care plans provide staff with guidance as to how young people with specific skin and

hair care needs should be looked after and supported to maintain their health and well-being with specialised products purchased when required.

An application for the manager of the service to be registered with Ofsted has now been received. The application is currently under process and will be progressed in due course.

Young people said they are assisted to learn and consolidate age appropriate practical skills. This includes being supported to learn and complete laundry and cooking tasks. Each young person has a skills based needs assessment completed on their individual self care and independent abilities shortly after arrival. This assessment subsequently informs the home's in-house pathway programme which provides a structured approach in assisting young people to work through relevant areas of independence. The programme covers a wide range of situations including being able to answer and make phone calls to agencies such as job centres, opening bank accounts, planning, shopping and cooking meals to a budget and considering how to manage bills if living independently.

The atmosphere in the home was found to be busy yet relaxed. The management and staff team display a sound appreciation of the needs of young people in their care. Young people said staff 'understood them well' and that they were 'happy' living there. Observations of staff and young people interacting were seen to be calm and respectful.

## 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 (March 2011)*.