

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC030797
Inspection date	15/01/2013
Inspector	Thomas Webber
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	14/08/2012
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Service information

Brief description of the service

The home is owned by a private organisation. It is registered to provide care and accommodation for up to a maximum of nine young people, who may have emotional and 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 **satisfactory progress**.

The overall rating for this home was judged as good at the last full inspection in August 2012. However, some individual outcome areas, such as the quality of care and safeguarding young people, were judged as outstanding. There was one recommendation identified at that inspection. This related to ensuring that staff supervision records are signed by both the supervisor and members of staff at the end of the supervision. A spot check in relation to a number of staff files confirmed that this recommendation has been fully addressed.

The home continues to maintain good staffing levels at all times to meet the number and needs of young people accommodated. There are always senior staff on duty to ensure consistency of care. Young people are also well cared for by a stable staff team who are either appropriately trained or have nearly completed the relevant qualification. The staff team reflects the diverse cultural needs of young people accommodated.

There has been a significant change within the group of young people

accommodated at the home. The well-established routines and boundaries established by the home have enabled three young people, who have been admitted in a relative short period of time, to be successfully integrated.

The home has an established procedure for ensuring the safe return of young people who go missing. Prior to the new admissions, the incidents of young people going missing were minimal. Since the new admissions, there has been an increase in young people going missing, although these incidents have related to specific individuals. The home is proactive in taking appropriate measures to minimise the risk to young people and to reduce the number of incidents.

There have been no safeguarding incidents since the last inspection. Although there have been a number of restraints and sanctions applied, these are suitably monitored and recorded. These measures of control are not considered excessive given the number of young people accommodated.

There have been no complaints made by young people since the last inspection. There has been one complaint from a member of the community, which has been promptly addressed and resolved. There has been no reoccurrence of the behaviour which prompted the original complaint.

Staff liaise well with the relevant authorities to establish appropriate educational provision for young people. The staff also support young people to maintain appropriate contact with their families providing supervised contact where necessary. Some success has been achieved in re-establishing and increasing contact arrangements between young people and their family members. Young people who chose to engage in the inspection process on this occasion were positive about the care they receive.

No requirements or recommendations have been made at this inspection. Young people continue to live in an environment which is well managed, given the number of young people accommodated and the changes to the group dynamics that have occurred since the last inspection.

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*.