

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC032475
Inspection date	30/01/2013
Inspector	Anthony Kyem
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	27/06/2012
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Service information

Brief description of the service

The home provides care and accommodation for up to five young people of either sex from 11 to 17 years of age. The home is registered with Ofsted to provide services to young people with emotional and/or behavioural difficulties. Young people receive care on a medium to long-term basis. The home's primary purpose is to support young people to return home, wherever possible.

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**.

The home was judged to provide young people with good quality care at its previous inspection. It has met one of two recommendations made at that inspection. This has resulted in improvements to staff training. As a result, staff can now access further training to refresh their skills and knowledge in the use of behaviour management. Regular fire evacuation tests continue to be undertaken. However, the response time to fire drills is not routinely recorded to monitor the effectiveness with which fire drills take place. The recommendation made at the last inspection in relation to response times is repeated.

Young people benefit from a physically safe and secure environment. The home provides young people with a safe, high standard of homely, comfortable living accommodation. Young people benefit from the home's centralised location. They have access to a large shopping centre and a diverse range of sports and leisure facilities. As a result, young people can access local places of interest to them. The health and safety arrangements of the premises are managed safely. This ensures

young people are kept safe from accident, harm or injury.

Young people are protected through the use of comprehensive risk assessment and safe care practice. Staffs' knowledge, skills and professional practice ensure young people are protected from abuse, bullying, neglect and exploitation. As a result, young people benefit from a strong sense of personal safety. Young people's safety is promoted if they go missing. Staff follow agreed protocols, policies and procedures to promote their safe return.

Young people benefit from a home that is managed efficiently and effectively. The Registered Manager demonstrates strong and effective leadership over the day-to-day operations of the home. They make positive use of the home's monitoring activities, to promote the quality of young people's care and their welfare.

Young people are able to make a positive contribution to the home and the wider community. The home actively promotes young people's interests and hobbies to enable them to benefit from positive activities that they enjoy. As a result, young people develop skills, social networks and friendships as a result of their participation. Young people's independence is promoted and their transition towards adult life is actively supported.

Areas for improvement

Recommendations

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

- ensure the response time to fire drills is recorded consistently. (NMS 10.9)

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*.