

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC034944
Inspection date	04/03/2013
Inspector	Mandy Williams
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	05/10/2012
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Service information

Brief description of the service

The home is owned and operated by a private organisation. It is registered to provide care and accommodation for up to four children and young people. The children and young people may have emotional and/or behavioural difficulties, including attachment problems.

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 full inspection in October 2012, the overall effectiveness of the home was judged to be good. At this time, Ofsted recommended four areas of improvement to the provider. The Registered Manager has successfully completed all of these.

Senior staff working in the home who are responsible for the supervision of staff have now attended training focused on undertaking this task. This ensures that they are equipped with the skills necessary to perform this duty competently. In addition, work has been undertaken with the staff team to help them appreciate the importance of preparing for supervision. This ensures that staff are receiving the appropriate support to enable them to provide good quality care to children and young people.

A system has been developed for young people to be able to express their views in relation to the appraisals of staff members. This has already been implemented in the home and some changes made for the future to make the process more user friendly for young people. The Registered Manager found the feedback received from

the young people was indeed helpful and did help inform the appraisals.

Emergency evacuation drills are now periodically undertaken when the young people are in bed. This ensures that all young people are familiar with what action to take if fire breaks out during the night.

Young people now benefit from personalised incentive plans, which identify achievable targets. Young people receive a weekly point's total that they are able to exchange for a reward on a monthly basis. Rewards range from a certificate, to an outing to a venue of choice by the young person. Young people are now familiar with this system and it is producing positive results. Positive behaviour is generally rewarded in the home, rather than the sanctioning of poor behaviour. However, any sanctions that are imposed are well evaluated by the Registered Manager and on occasion more positive alternatives are suggested that are more restorative in nature. This helps young people appreciate that there are implications to the decisions that they make.

Since the last inspection much of the home has been decorated and some new furnishings have been purchased. The home is warm and welcoming. Young people are also able to personalise their own bedrooms. This helps them feel that their views are important and that they belong in the home. Young people's views are of importance to the development of the home and to the organisation. Young people in the home attend the organisation's children's forum where they are able to suggest areas for improvement. One young person was also recently chosen to attend a national children's rights event as a representative of the organisation.

The home routinely requests feedback from users of the service in order to evaluate the quality of service that they provide. A professional using the service recently commented, 'The home provides clear child-centred practice - clearly willing to go the extra mile to achieve the right outcome'. Additionally a young person who was moving on from the home made very positive comments and added, 'Thank you for getting me here'.

The Registered Manager is alert to the developing needs of the young people and is keen for the home to continue to develop the service it provides. No requirements or recommendations resulted from this interim 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*.