

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC034944
Inspection date	06/03/2014
Inspector	Mandy Williams
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	04/03/2013
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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 December 2013, the overall effectiveness of the home was judged to be good. At that time, Ofsted asked the provider to address one requirement and suggested improvements in an additional two areas. The Registered Manager was proactive in addressing the areas of improvement from the previous inspection, addressing them before receiving the finalised version of the report.

Action was taken immediately to ensure that a copy of the six-monthly report on the internal monitoring of the home was sent to Ofsted. This report was of good quality and contained good evaluation of the issues monitored. This helps the Registered Manager focus on areas that require improvement.

The missing verification document in relation to staff recruitment has now been obtained and is part of the employee's record. The Registered Manager has also devised her own internal verification document following this identified omission. This will ensure that she has personally checked that all tasks have been successfully completed prior to an employee starting work in the home.

A newly formatted restraint book is now in operation in the home. This allows space for additional text to be recorded by staff when documenting the incident.

Unfortunately, the number of physical restraints required has increased for some young people since the last inspection. However, the Registered Manager's monitoring of this is good and she is able to identify particular triggers for the young people involved. Young people are aware of their behaviour management plans and have their own child friendly version. One young person commented on their plan saying, 'the adults have helped me with my behaviours'.

Since the last inspection staff have documented decisions and actions arising from young people's statutory review meetings. These have been clearly noted on young people's files, so that the actions can be addressed immediately, while awaiting receipt of the minutes of these meetings. This ensures that any necessary tasks are completed in a timely way.

The home has been stable since the last inspection. There have been no changes to the group of young people or to the staff team. This stability allows for young people to become confident in the response that they will receive from those caring for them, which is important for young people who may have experienced inconsistencies in care in their early childhood.

The Registered Manager is well respected by the staff team and demonstrates a desire to drive forward improvements in the home. Suggestions for improvement are welcomed. One social worker who was recently asked for their views commented, 'I feel this is an excellent placement. The Registered Manager and the other staff members provide a high standard of care. They are totally committed to meeting the young person's needs. Communication between myself and the home is to a very high standard, which clearly benefits the young person'.

No specific 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*.