

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC035339
Inspection date	21/03/2013
Inspector	Stella Henderson
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	05/07/2012
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Service information

Brief description of the service

This children's home is owned and managed by a metropolitan borough council. The home can accommodate six young people and has been set up specifically to provide care to young people with emotional or behavioural difficulties. It is anticipated that young people will live at the home on a medium- to long-term basis.

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 last inspected in July 2012. At that inspection the home was judged to be good with quality of care and leadership being outstanding.

Three recommendations were raised in relation to the recording of staff supervision, contact details for Ofsted and consistency in identifying the new National Minimum Standards in policies and procedures. Evidence from this inspection demonstrates that these recommendations have been promptly addressed, thereby further improving young people's quality of care.

The home continues to demonstrate a real commitment to improve the quality of care it provides for young people. For example, with consistent staff support young people have achieved improvements in their educational and health outcomes. Focused individual work has enabled young people to increase their trust in staff, facilitating greater sharing and exploration of their concerns and emotions. For one young person this has meant an increase in the frequency and quality of contact, ensuring that this is meaningful and worthwhile.

Since the last inspection greater emphasis has been placed on all aspects of individualised planning for young people, giving them the lead in many areas. This means that their views have greater centrality to this process which helps to engage and empower them. As a consequence they are better able to recognise their own achievements and the progress they have made at the home, as well as articulate what they would like to have changed.

Young people's quality of care has also been enhanced by redecoration of the home and installation of an additional bathroom. Safeguarding measures continue to be implemented consistently and promptly when required particularly where missing from home incidents are concerned. The manager and staff work effectively with partner agencies on this matter, ensuring young people are returned safely to the home.

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*.