

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC035439
Inspection date	27/03/2014
Inspector	Graham Robinson
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	21/01/2013
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Service information

Brief description of the service

A local authority operates this children's home. This service is registered for up to six young people of either gender, aged between 11 and 17 years of age. The home cares for young people with 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 **good progress**.

The overall rating given following the previous inspection was outstanding. Since then, despite the short time between this and the previous full inspection, the home has made good progress. For example, the manager has strengthened the homes ties with external services linked to improving outcomes for young people leaving care. Young people and staff have reached full agreement regarding the location of their forthcoming summer holiday, which has now been booked.

Practice continues to be reviewed to ensure the ever changing needs of young people continue to be met. For example, work continues to develop an independence pack and planning format that is practical and meets the needs of current care leavers. This demonstrates the homes willingness to review and update its own practices to ensure needs are being met.

Young people are provided with a co-ordinated, multi-agency response should they go missing or be involved in any safeguarding issues. Appropriate links with external services have been maintained, allowing the home to work in partnership with a range of agencies. These arrangements protect young people and have contributed

effectively to minimising the number of incidents that do occur.

Young people are well settled in their placements. While a number have deep rooted issues, serious behaviour management incidents occurring in the home are rare. Any difficulties, challenges and unrest are worked through sensitively and supportively in a non-punitive environment. This is recognised by young people as a particular strength of the staff group who they trust and enjoy positive relationships with. As a result, young people benefit from improved outcomes socially, emotionally and educationally.

Forming trusting relationships and supporting young people through troubled times, allows young people to settle and consider the implications of their previous lifestyle. They are expected to take responsibility for their own actions and encouraged to plan for their own futures. This helps them to grow and mature, resulting in young people being able to make more informed decisions about themselves and their futures.

High levels of consultation based on the strong relationships in place, ensures young people have direct input into their future plans. This gives them a feeling of worth, a sense of direction and personal goals to aim for.

For example, one young person spoke in some depth about the on-going preparation being put into them leaving care. The young person recognises the journey they have made since first admitted and is able to look to the future with some confidence and ambition.

The home is well organised and effectively managed. Staff have a team centred approach, giving young people a consistency of care. Managers and staff remain child-focussed and actively enjoy the company of young people. This is a major contributing factor towards the positive, lively, energetic atmosphere created in the home. Young people confirm they can bring issues and concerns to the attention of staff in the knowledge and expectation they will be taken seriously and addressed appropriately.

At the previous inspection, one recommendation was made. This has been fully addressed resulting in young people having improved information available to them in the young person's guide. Since then the home has made good progress, with the standard of care continuing to improve. Feedback received from young people continues to be positive. No new recommendations have been made as a result of this 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*.