

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC037984
Inspection date	19/02/2013
Inspector	Deborah White
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	09/05/2012
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Service information

Brief description of the service

This children's home provides care and accommodation for three children with emotional and behavioural difficulties. The home is operated by the local authority.

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 children's home was judged as overall good at the last full inspection that was undertaken on 9 May 2012. The home has continued to make good progress, which has improved the outcomes for and services to children.

Children live in a homely environment that meets their needs. The home is located within the local community and children have good access to all local amenities and leisure facilities. The children have formed good bonds and friendships in their locality, which helps promotes feelings of inclusion and acceptance.

Children are progressing very well at school and educational placements. All children have good attendance and are achieving. There are good support networks to support children in school and achievements are rewarded. Staff view education as a positive activity and this ethos is shared with the children, with good individual educational results.

Children enjoy a range of activities. Individual and groups activities are encouraged and supported, which enables children to use their leisure time positively. Children have enjoyed extended summer holidays, which have given them happy childhood

memories.

Children who go missing are protected in line with the children's home and local authority safeguarding protocols. Multi-agency teams monitor and assess all instances where a child goes missing and regular safeguarding planning meetings review any risk taking behaviours.

Children know what measures are in place to keep them safe and are engaged in one-to-one sessions with key-workers and specialist staff. This provides for a secure, safe, and private forum for children to talk about any worries or problems that may be contributing to their risk taking behaviour.

The home has progressed by meeting a requirement and recommendation from the last inspection. The restraint log now includes a section for staff to record what measures are taken to avoid a physical intervention and the home's development plan includes information that demonstrates financial viability.

Further progress has been made to improve the management and function of the home. For example, additional monitoring systems have been introduced to ensure administration tasks are monitored and completed in a timely manner to improve efficiency. Additionally, changes to how children's care is evaluated provides for the Registered Manager to review and comment on progress and developments.

The home has also introduced what they call 'sign and dine' meetings. Social workers and other professionals are invited to the home for refreshments, to have dedicated time to talk to staff and to review and sign children's placement plans and risk assessments. The Registered Manager reports that the meetings are positive and effective.

Staff are happy and feel supported. They describe their team as consistent and child-focused. Relationships between staff and children are relaxed and comfortable.

There are no new requirements or recommendations arising from 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*.