

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	20/03/2014
Inspector	Stephen Smith
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	18/07/2013
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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 home was last inspected in July 2013 when it was judged to be good in every outcome area and was given a rating of good overall.

At that full inspection, two requirements and one recommendation were made. A requirement was made regarding the need to ensure that financial penalties are not used as measures of control or discipline. The home has taken action to ensure that work to encourage young people to care for their rooms, clothes and personal possessions is now carried out with financial incentives rather than penalties as before. The home was required to send a copy of its statement of purpose to Ofsted every time the document is revised and has done so for the two revisions made since the last inspection. A recommendation that opened food packages be labelled with the date to ensure that they were stored appropriately has also been met.

The home continues to provide good quality care to the young people who live there. Staff work hard to develop and maintain very good working relationships with young people and their families. The staff at the home work well with young people to ensure they are able to access the services that they need. For example, the home works closely with young people and their schools to ensure their regular

attendance. Young people and staff have positive relationships which the staff utilise to help and encourage young people to attend and achieve at school. Staff respond appropriately to situations which could lead to future attendance problems. Where attendance deteriorates the home monitors this effectively and takes action to ensure that this improves again. For example, changes in the home may have contributed to a recent deterioration in young people's school attendance. Good work has taken place to address this and attendance is now good again.

The home works effectively with young people to provide them with any specialist support they may need. Where young people are at risk from misusing drugs, alcohol or other substances the home engages the necessary support and advice. This helps young people to make great strides in reducing or ceasing their use of such substances. The home provides appropriate support for, and challenge to, young people's behaviour. Effective monitoring of patterns and trends takes place and the home evaluates its practice and young people's situations to plan how to provide support.

The home works well to respond to any incidents where young people go missing. Staff have a good relationship with the police and respond to incidents in a way that helps to ensure young people's safety. This approach is effective in reducing the incidence of this behaviour and the risks associated with it.

Safeguarding arrangements in the home are effective and any action necessary is taken where there are concerns about young people's safety or wellbeing.

Despite significant management changes in the home since the last inspection, the home continues to be managed well. The home's new manager has applied for registration with Ofsted and has effectively taken over the operation of the home. While this period of change in late 2013 does appear to have had a short term negative impact on young people's behaviour this has been dealt with well. There is now clear evidence that young people's behaviour, safety, wellbeing, and the outcomes they are achieving, are now improving. External management and monitoring is effective and supports the home's delivery of care so that it meets young people's needs well.

Overall, the home continues to provide a good quality of care to the young people who live or stay there. Young people are helped to achieve positive outcomes and make good progress at 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*.