

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC039087
Inspection date	05/03/2014
Inspector	Mark Kersh
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	22/05/2013
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Service information

Brief description of the service

This home is a 72-foot narrow boat that travels around the canal network. It provides care and accommodation for up to one young person with emotional and/or behavioural difficulties. The home is managed by a private company.

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 to be adequate at the last full inspection in May 2013. Since then, the home has met the three requirements and the two recommendations. This interim inspection found that the home has made good progress.

Young people currently accommodated at the home are maintaining good outcomes in education and are attending lessons daily. Young people are currently taught in-house by qualified teachers and the daily routine of the home is organised in ways which facilitate this learning. This enables young people to have access to and engage in a full educational timetable. Most staff have the necessary childcare qualification and staff without the minimum childcare qualification are undertaking their level 3 diploma. This means young people are looked after by staff who are competent, qualified and experienced. All staff demonstrate a good awareness of notifying other agencies including Ofsted of any significant event. This further protects young people as and when incidents arise.

Young people are registered with local health services and although the home is

mobile, being a seventy two foot narrow boat, they can access these services as and when needed. Young people are able to make new friendships at various locations and maintain these as the home visits the same locations each week. The home's records are clear, up to date and contribute to young people's lives. Systems are now in place to ensure all staff demonstrate a better understanding of the format and nature of records and where to locate them.

Young people are safe and say that they feel safe. They are kept safe through robust working practices, which are risk assessed. Risk assessments are clear, individualised, regularly reviewed and agreed by the placing authority. This means risks are minimised and safeguarding practice is personalised. There have been no incidents of young people missing, restraint has not taken place for some considerable time and consequences for inappropriate behaviour are minimal but fair when imposed.

The home's manager and staff advocate for young people in their reviews. They guarantee that the views of young people are heard which ensures that their wishes and feelings are taken into consideration when decisions about their future are being made. This helps to ensure the welfare of young people remains foremost and that the service is striving to continually meet their needs.

Since the last inspection the home has completed an extensive refurbishment programme which has improved the living standards on board. No further requirements or recommendations have been set 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*.